



Cairo University



Cairo University
Faculty of Economics and Political Science
Political Science Department

Electoral Systems and Party Systems
PE231
Political Science Major
Course Outline
Academic Year 2019-20

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Sundays: 10:30 – 11:50
Tuesdays: 10:30 – 11:50

Electoral systems and party systems play a significant role in any political system. Whereas their value increases as the level of democracy in a country picks up and free elections are the norm, they also play different roles in semi-authoritarian and authoritarian countries. On the one hand, electoral systems help shape the parameters of political competition, affect how parliaments get formed and electoral battles are fought. On the other hand, party systems affect the core structure of political representation and influence variables that stretch from regime legitimacy, the quality of democracy and thus the overall stability of the political system. Both also affect and are affected by each other.

This course tackles each of these systems independently (sometimes looking at them as dependent variables affected by other factors and at other times as independent variables affecting other political outcomes) in addition to the dynamics of their mutual relationship. We will be talking about actual case studies from around the world. We will also be following closely any election that takes place during the course.

I. Course Objectives:

1. To understand the various types of electoral systems' families and the logic behind the different typologies.

2. To understand the different effects of electoral systems.
3. To understand how to describe party systems and how far such differences matter.
4. To be able to read academic papers, write your own papers and present them.
5. To learn how to engage in a debate either with classmates or professors (some of whom we hope to invite as guest speakers).

II. What is required from you:

1. Attend all lectures. This is not a strictly textbook-based course. Your attendance will help your analytical skills – which is a skill the course aims at developing. To increase your chances of achieving high grades in this course, you should attend all classes unless you have an emergency.
2. Do the required readings. The readings aim at helping you follow what is being discussed in lectures and sections. They should also help you answer the exam questions. There is no specific textbook for the course. However, there are some articles and books that we will read from as we go deep into the course. These include:
 David M. Farrell (2011) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. (*I only have the 2001 edition as soft copy which I will upload on Moodle*).
 Lijphart, Arend (1994) *Electoral Systems & Party Systems: a study of twenty-seven democracies 1945-1990*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Norris, Pippa (2004) *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
 Mainwaring, Scott and Timothy Scully (eds.) (1995) *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*, Stanford, Stanford University Press.
 Richard S. Katz and William Crotty (eds.) (2006) *Handbook of Party Politics*, London: Sage.
3. Challenge presented ideas and speak up in lectures and sections. This helps you understand.
4. Follow the international news media. Read international press. This is a course about elections and parties around the globe.
5. Expect pop quizzes during the course. They will not be so hard but they will be graded to ensure that you catch up with the readings and lectures.

III. Course Structure:

Lecture	Topic
Lecture 1	Introduction
Lecture 2	Majoritarian Systems
Lecture 3	Majoritarian Systems
Lecture 4	PR Systems
Lecture 5	PR Systems
Lecture 6	Mixed Systems
Lecture 7	Mixed Systems

Lecture 8	Single-Transferrable Vote
Lecture 9	Electoral Systems of Presidential Elections
Lecture 10	Outcomes of Electoral Systems
Lecture 11	Outcomes of Electoral Systems
Lecture 12	Types of Parties
Lecture 13	Party System Polarisation
Lecture 14	Party System Fragmentation
Lecture 15	Party System Fragmentation
Lecture 16	Electoral Volatility
Lecture 17	Electoral Volatility
Lecture 18	Party System Cleavages
Lecture 19	Parties from the Inside
Lecture 20	Decline of Parties
Lecture 21	Speakers
Lecture 22	Putting in all together

We might invite some speakers as the course progresses. I will be announcing them in due time.

IV. Office hours:

Mazen Hassan:

Sundays: 11:50 to 12:30. Tuesdays: 11:50-12:30. Centre for Political Research & Studies and Intercultural Dialogue (CPRSID), floor 1, new building. It is strongly recommended to email (m.hassan@feps.edu.eg) if you are planning to come to the office hours.

V. Evaluation:

1. Midterm exam: 20%.
2. Term paper and other requirements (including pop quizzes): 30 %. Deadline for paper submission is last class in the term . Word Count is around 3,000 words, excluding references. The two best papers will be awarded 2 extra points. Term papers will be group work. Each 3 students will co-author one paper. I expect them to divide the workload fairly (i.e. each student responsible for one-third of the paper). Each student should write their names above the section they were responsible for. However, the full paper should be one comprehensive, consistent document and reflecting students' joint effort and deliberations. As for the grades, 50% of the grades for each student will be for the overall paper and 50% will be for his/her section.
3. Final exam: 50%.

VI. Elections that will take place during the course:

We will try to follow contemporary elections that take place during the course. I will try as much as I can to get speakers to talk about the, I also encourage you to follow their news. They are:

1. Israeli legislative election: 17 September 2019.
2. Austrian legislative election: 29 September 2019.
3. Tunisian parliamentary election 2019.
4. Polish parliamentary election 13 October 2019.

5. Swiss federal election: 20 October 2019.
6. Argentine general election: 27 October 2019.

VI. Detailed Course Topics:

Course material (i.e. presentations, further readings, etc.) will be uploaded on Moodle. It is essential that you can log-in to Moodle.

Lecture 1: *Introductory Lecture:*

What will be discussed is this course and how it will be discussed.

David M. Farrell (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. Chapter 1.

Lectures 2 and 3 - Majoritarian Systems:

David M. Farrell (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. Chapters 2 and 3.

Gallagher, M. and Mitchell, P., eds., (2005) *The Politics of Electoral Systems* (Oxford: OUP). Chapters 4-9.

Lectures 4 and 5 – PR Systems:

David M. Farrell (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. Chapters 4.

Gallagher, M. and Mitchell, P., eds., (2005) *The Politics of Electoral Systems* (Oxford: OUP). Chapters 16 - 25.

Lectures 6 and 7 – Mixed Systems:

David M. Farrell (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. Chapter 5.

Gallagher, M. and Mitchell, P., eds., (2005) *The Politics of Electoral Systems* (Oxford: OUP). Chapters 10 - 15.

Lecture 8 – Single-Transferrable Vote:

David M. Farrell (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*, New York: Palgrave. Chapter 6.

Lecture 9 – Electoral Systems of Presidential Elections:

Reynolds, A., Reilly, B., Ellis, A., & Cheibub, J. A. (2012). *Electoral system design: the new international IDEA handbook*. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Jones, Mark (1995) *Electoral Laws and the Survival of Presidential Democracies*, Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press.

Shugart, Matthew Soberg and John M. Carey (1992) *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lectures 10 and 11 – Outcomes of Electoral Systems:

Norris, Pippa (2004) *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*, New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7.

Persson, T., & Tabellini, G. E. (2005). *The Economic effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge, MA: MIT.

Doorenspleet, Renske (2005) ‘Electoral Systems and Democratic Quality: Do Mixed Systems Combine the Best or the Worst of Both Worlds? An Explorative Quantitative Cross-national Study’, *Acta Politica*, 40, pp. 28–49.

Lecture 12 –Types of Parties:

Katz, Richard and Peter Mair (1995) ‘Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: the Emergence of the Cartel Party’, *Party Politics*, 1, pp. 5-28.

Blyth, Mark and Richard Katz (2005) ‘From Catch-all Politics to Cartelisation: The Political Economy of the Cartel Party’, *West European Politics*, 28, pp. 33-60.

Lecture 13 and 14 – Party System Polarisation:

Jahn, Detlef (2010a) ‘Estimating Party Positions from Party Manifestos: Bringing Theory Back In. Research Report’. University of Greifswald. Available at: <http://pip.uni-greifswald.de/>.

Ross, Fiona (2000) ‘Beyond Left and Right: The New Partisan Politics of Welfare’, *Governance*, 13: 2, pp. 155-83; Cukierman, Alex, and Mariano Tommasi (1998) ‘When Does It Take a Nixon To Go to China?’ *American Economic Review*, 88: 1, pp. 180-97.

Carl Schmitt, “Preface to the Second Edition (1926): On the Contradiction between Parliamentarism and Democracy,” *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (MIT Press, 1988), pp. 1-17.

Lecture 15 and 16 – Party System Fragmentation:

Laakso, Markku and Rein Taagepera (1979) ‘“Effective” Number of Parties: A Measure with Application to West Europe’, *Comparative Political Studies*, 12, pp. 3-27.

Lecture 17 and 18 – Electoral Volatility:

Pedersen, Mogens (1979) ‘The Dynamics of European Party Systems: Changing Patterns of Electoral Volatility’, *European Journal of Political Research*, 7: 1, pp. 1–26.

Niemi, R.G. and P. Fett. 1986. “The Swing Ratio: An Explanation and an Assessment.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 11: 75-90

What Did Cambridge Analytica Do During The 2016 Election?, 2018, *NPR* <https://www.npr.org/2018/03/20/595338116/what-did-cambridge-analytica-do-during-the-2016-election>

Lecture 19 – Parties from the Inside:

Readings to be determined.

Lecture 20 – Decline of Political Parties:

Mair, Peter (1997) *Party System Change: Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dalton, Russell J. and Martin P. Wattenberg (eds.) (2000) *Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lecture 21 – Speakers

Lecture 22 – Putting in all together.