

Course: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (Mondays, 15.30-17.00)

Lecturer: Dr. Višeslav Raos, Associate Professor (viseslav.raos@fpzg.hr)

Academic year: 2022/2023, Summer Semester

Student hours: per appointment

COURSE PROGRAM

Session	Date	Topic	Content
1	March 6	<i>Introduction to Electoral Systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the study of electoral systems • Basic concepts of electoral systems • Main points of difference of electoral system types
2	March 13	<i>Turning Votes into Seats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing seat allocation methods • Effects of district magnitude and electoral thresholds • Measuring the effects of electoral systems on party systems
3	March 20	<i>Voting Rights and Candidacy Rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of universal suffrage • Voting restrictions • Ballot access and candidacy requirements
4	March 27	<i>Plurality Voting System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of the British electoral system: party strongholds, safe and marginal seats, bias • Features of the American electoral system: Electoral College, apportionment, gerrymandering
5	April 3	<i>Two-Round System and the Alternative Vote System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The French two-round system • The alternative vote system in Australia
6	April 17	<i>Proportional Representation Systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of proportional representation systems • Structural elements of proportional representations systems
7	April 24	<i>Pure Proportional Representation Systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical reasons for the introduction of pure PR • Effects of pure PR on the party system, the parliamentary arena, and government stability
8	May 8	<i>PR System Subtypes and the Single Transferable Vote System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensatory PR systems: Scandinavian systems • Majority bonus systems: Italy • Single transferable vote: Ireland
9	May 15	<i>Mixed-Member Systems: Parallel System and the Mixed-Member Majoritarian System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions and typologies • Evolution of the mixed-member system in Hungary • Evolution of the mixed-member system in Croatia
10	May 22	<i>Mixed-Member Systems: Personalized Proportional System and the Additional Member System</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalized Proportional System in Germany • Additional Member System in Scotland

READINGS FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Session	Date	Topic	Content
3	March 20	<i>Voting Rights and Candidacy Rights</i>	<p>1st topic: Voting rights and political representation of citizens living abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kasapović, M. (2012) Voting Rights, Electoral Systems, and Political Representation of Diaspora in Croatia. <i>East European Politics and Societies and Cultures</i> 26(4): 777-791. • Lafleur, J-M. (2015) The enfranchisement of citizens abroad: variations and explanations. <i>Democratization</i> 22(5): 840-860. <p>2nd topic: Mechanisms of voting rights restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hajnal, Z.; Lajevardi, N.; & Nielson, L. (2017) Voter Identification Laws and the Suppression of Minority Votes. <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 79(2): 363-742. • King, B. A. & Erickson, L. (2016) Disenfranchising the Enfranchised: Exploring the Relationship Between Disenfranchisement and African American Voter Turnout. <i>Journal of Black Studies</i> 47(8): 799-821.
4	March 27	<i>Plurality Voting System</i>	<p>1st topic: The effect of majoritarian electoral systems on voter behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blais, A. (2002) Why Is there So Little Strategic Voting in Canadian Plurality Rule Elections? <i>Political Studies</i> 50(3): 445-454. • Blais, A.; Labbé-St-Vincent, S.; Laslier, J-F.; Sauger, N.; & Van der Straeten, K. (2011) Strategic Vote Choice in One-round and Two-round Elections: An Experimental Study. <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 64(3): 637-645. <p>2nd topic: Electoral College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goux, D. J. & Hopkins, D. A. (2008) The Empirical Implications of Electoral College Reform. <i>American Politics Research</i> 36(6): 857-879. • Miller, N. R. (2012) Why the Electoral College is good for political science (and public choice). <i>Public Choice</i> 150(1): 1-25.
5	April 3	<i>Two-Round System and the Alternative Vote System</i>	<p>1st topic: Effects of the two-round system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birch, S. (2003). Two-Round Electoral Systems and Democracy. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 36(3): 319-344. • Blais, A. & Loewen, P. J. (2009) The French Electoral System and its Effects. <i>West European Politics</i> 32(2): 345-359. <p>2nd topic: Pros and cons of the alternative vote system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraenkel, J. & Grofman, B. (2006) Does the Alternative Vote Foster Moderation in Ethnically Divided Societies? The Case of Fiji. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 39(5): 623-651. • Jansen, H. J. (2004) The Political Consequences of the Alternative Vote: Lessons from Western Canada. <i>Canadian Journal of Political Sciences</i> 37(3): 647-669.

6	April 17	<i>Proportional Representation Systems</i>	<p>1st topic: Electoral threshold effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Górecki, M. A. & Kukołowicz, P. (2017) Electoral formula, legal threshold and the number of parties: A natural experiment. <i>Party Politics</i> 24(6): 617-628. Reuchamps, M.; Onclin, F.; Caluwaerts, D.; & Baudewyns, P. (2014) Raising the Threshold, Fighting Fragmentation? Mechanical and Psychological Effects of the Legal Electoral Threshold in Belgium. <i>West European Politics</i> 37(5): 1087-1107. <p>2nd topic: Ballot structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Däubler, T. & Hix, S. (2018) Ballot structure, list flexibility and policy representation. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 25(12): 1798-1816. Pereira, P. T. & Andrade e Silva, J. (2009) Citizens' freedom to choose representatives: Ballot structure, proportionality and 'fragmented' parliaments. <i>Electoral Studies</i> 28(1): 101-110.
7	April 24	<i>Pure Proportional Representation Systems</i>	<p>1st topic: Dynamics of the Dutch electoral system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cox, G. W. (2006) How Electoral Reform Might Affect the Number of Political Parties in The Netherlands. <i>Acta Politica</i> 41(2): 133-145. van der Kolk, H. (2007) Electoral System Change in the Netherlands: The Road from PR to PR (1917-2006). <i>Representation</i> 43(4): 271-287. <p>2nd topic: Hits and misses of electoral reform in Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kook, R. (2017) Representation, minorities and electoral reform: the case of the Palestinian minority in Israel. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 40(12): 2039-2057. Rahat, G. (2006) The Politics of Electoral Reform Abolition: The Informed Process of Israel's Return to Its Previous Electoral System. <i>Political Studies</i> 54(1): 43-64.
8	May 8	<i>PR System Subtypes and the Single Transferable Vote System</i>	<p>1st topic: The bonus system in Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedock, C. & Sauger, N. (2014) Electoral Systems with a Majority Bonus as Unconventional Mixed Systems. <i>Representation</i> 50(1): 99-112. D'Alimonte, R. (2015) The new Italian electoral system: majority-assuring but minority-friendly. <i>Contemporary Italian Politics</i> 7(3): 286-292. <p>2nd topic: Features of the Irish system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeks, L. (2014) Crashing the party. Does STV help independents? <i>Party Politics</i> 20(4): 604-616. Farrell, D. M. & Katz, R. S. (2014) Assessing the proportionality of the single transferable vote. <i>Representation</i> 50(1): 13-26.

9	May 15	<i>Mixed-Member Systems 1</i>	<p>1st topic: Interactions between the plurality and proportional tiers: Voter behavior and party strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cox, K. E. & Schoppa, L. J. (2002) Interaction Effects in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: Theory and Evidence From Germany, Japan, and Italy. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 35(9): 1027-1053. • Krauss, E.; Nemoto, K.; & Pekkanen, R. (2012) Reverse Contamination: Burning and Building Bridges in Mixed-Member Systems. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 45(6): 747-773. <p>2nd topic: The influence of the mixed-member system on MP behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herron, E. S. (2002) Electoral Influences on Legislative Behavior in Mixed-Member Systems: Evidence from Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada. <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> 27(3): 361-382. • Sieberer, U. (2010) Behavioral consequences of mixed electoral systems: Deviating voting behavior of district and list MPs in the German Bundestag. <i>Electoral Studies</i> 29(3): 484-496.
10	May 22	<i>Mixed-Member Systems 2</i>	<p>1st topic: Vote splitting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gschwend, T. (2007) Ticket-splitting and strategic voting under mixed electoral rules: evidence from Germany. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 46(1): 1-23. • Moser, R. G. & Scheiner, E. (2009) Strategic voting in established and new democracies: Ticket splitting in mixed-member electoral systems. <i>Electoral Studies</i> 28(1): 51-61. <p>2nd topic: Surplus seats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behnke, J. (2007) The Strange Phenomenon of Surplus Seats in the German Electoral System. <i>German Politics</i> 16(4): 496-517. • Roberts, G. K. (2000) By decree or by design? The surplus seats problem in the German electoral system: Causes and remedies. <i>Representation</i> 37(3-4): 195-202.



STUDY RULES

1. Students are expected to read the suggested articles prior to each tutorial session. Students are expected to **give a presentation (20 minutes) on one of the suggested topics**. When **preparing their presentations, students should include at least one additional source (article, book chapter, etc.), besides the two suggested articles for that topic**. Presentations imply that students will provide own, critical views of the matter covered in the readings. Thus, please refrain from turning your presentations into mere summaries. For each session (excluding the first two, introductory sessions), there will be two topics for presentations, with two suggested articles each. Please choose one of the topics for your presentation for that session.

You can access journal databases, such as *ScienceDirect*, *SageJournals*, and *Taylor&Francis*, through the Croatian National and University Library's proxy: <http://baze.nsk.hr/proxy/>. Click on the "Proxy" rubric and login with your *aaEdu* credentials provided to you by the Faculty's International Students office. Then you will see a list of journal databases where you can browse and download PDFs of scholarly articles. Suggested journal in the *ScienceDirect* database: *Electoral Studies*. Suggested journals in the *SageJournals* database: *Comparative Political Studies*, *Party Politics*. Suggested journals in the *Taylor&Francis* database: *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion and Parties*, *West European Politics*, *Democratization*, *Representation*, *The Journal of Legislative Studies*.

Presentations should be uploaded to the respective folder on the MS Teams platform **Fridays until 17.00** (preceding the respective tutorial session). The quality of presentations (20%) and participation in tutorial discussions (10%) makes up **30% of the final grade**.

2. Students are expected to write a semester paper (2000-2500 words, not counting the bibliography) on the topic of their own choice that fits the course content. The topic should receive approval by the lecturer until **April 3** the latest. The deadline for the semester paper to be handed in is **May 15**. The grade for the semester paper amounts to **30% of the final grade**. You can propose your own topic, or you can build upon one of the topics suggested below. Every semester paper should have a comparative research framework and revolve around a clearly stated research question.

Suggested topics for semester papers:

1. Age of candidacy requirements
2. Ballot access for parties and independent lists
3. Elections in post-conflict societies
4. Electoral fraud
5. Gender quotas
6. Gerrymandering
7. Rules on pre-electoral coalitions
8. Successful and unsuccessful electoral reforms
9. The advantages and disadvantages of the first-past-the-post system
10. The struggle of African Americans for equal voting rights

You can gladly propose an essay topic of your own. If choosing your own topic, try to make it a comparative study, rather than a single country study.

3. A necessary condition for passing the course is **the passing of the oral exam**. The exam covers selected chapters (1-3, 27-32, 34, 36-39) from the book Herron, Eric S.; Pekkanen, Robert. J., and Shugart, Matthew S. (Eds) (2018) *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

1st Exam Attempt: May 29, 15.30

2nd Exam Attempt: June 12, 15.30

4. The final grade for the course will be calculated according to the following formula:

$(\text{grade from point 1} \times 0.3) + (\text{grade from point 2} \times 0.3) + (\text{grade from point 3} \times 0.4)$

5. All the information about the course, reading materials and announcements will be posted via MS Teams, listed under Electoral Systems.



STYLE GUIDE FOR ESSAYS

FORMATTING

Please use the Times New Roman font, size 12, 1.5 spacing, justified (bloc text). Mark your paragraphs either by 0.5 cm indents or by formatting your paragraphs so that they include 10 pt spacing at paragraph ends. Use either single or double quotation marks but be consistent in their use.

LANGUAGE

Please use appropriate academic language, without jargon. When using foreign expressions, write them out in italics, with English translations in brackets. Use either US or UK spelling, but do not combine them. Run a spell checker before turning in your paper.

REFERENCING

Please use APA style for referencing and quoting (in-text citations and references, i.e., textnotes), while reserving footnotes for additional explanations and comments only. Include all referenced sources in your bibliography. Be careful when quoting and referencing, as to avoid plagiarism and misquotations. **Any possibility of plagiarism is taken seriously. Written assignments will be checked with appropriate anti-plagiarism software.**



CITATION STYLE EXAMPLES

Becker, Howard S. (2007) *Writing for social scientists: how to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Eurostat (2020) Labour productivity per person employed and hour worked. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/tesem160> Accessed: February 8, 2020.

Lefkofridi, Zoe and Katsanidou, Alexia (2018) A Step Closer to a Transnational Party System? Competition and Coherence in the 2009 and 2014 European Parliament. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56 (6): 1462-1482.

Lister, Jonathan (2020) What is Productivity of Labor? *Chron.com*. <https://smallbusiness.chron.com/productivity-labor-17636.html> Accessed: February 8, 2020.

Thomas, Henry K. (2004) *Training strategies for improving listeners' comprehension of foreign-accented speech* (Doctoral dissertation). University of Colorado: Boulder, CO.

Winne, Philip H. (2001) Self-regulated learning viewed from models of information processing. In: Zimmerman, Barry J. and Schunk, Dale H. (Eds.) *Self-regulated learning and academic achievement* (pp. 160-192). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

For more examples and guidelines on text formatting, citation, and referencing, please consult: *Guidelines for Writing Academic Papers at the Faculty of Political Science*.