MPP-E1147: Political Economy of Elections (and Electoral Systems)

Prof. Mark Kayser

1. General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class hours</th>
<th>Tuesday, 16-18h</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class room</td>
<td>R 2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Prof. Mark Kayser</td>
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<td>Email</td>
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<td>Phone</td>
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<td>Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>Dayna Sadow (<a href="mailto:sadow@hertie-school.org">sadow@hertie-school.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>By appointment</td>
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2. Course Contents

This course examines the determinants and consequences of voting, with an explicit emphasis on the economy. We cover the state of the art in the academic understanding of how voters respond to economic stimuli: How voters attribute responsibility, and hold political parties electorally accountable. Conversely, we also examine the consequences of voting: How regularities in voting behavior influence policy making, redistribution and specific policy making. The economy is often the single largest determinant of election outcomes in developed countries and as such, the economic vote is the strongest evidence that the governed actually hold those who govern them accountable in democracies. This course examines empirical regularities in the key relationships that determine who gains and who loses in democratic politics.

Approaches are pluralistic: rational, behavioral and psychological.

3. Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance and participation: Attendance, participation, and contribution to the discussions are an important part of the course requirements. You are expected to attend the session having done the reading and reflected upon them and to contribute to the discussion. Please upload a short set of comments, critiques and questions (1 page max!) based on the reading by 7pm each Monday. These comment briefs count toward your grade. Two unexcused “freebies” are allowed in the semester. We will draw on your responses during our seminar discussion. Please let me know ahead of time if you have to miss a session.
Discussion leading: Different students will be responsible for presenting given topics each week. This includes distributing a few questions that will serve as a guide for reading the material, giving a short presentation in class (ca. 10 minutes) as an introduction to the discussion, and participating especially actively in the discussion that week. Questions should be distributed by Monday at SPM.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on their in-class participation, their weekly briefs (see above) and a (12-hour) take-home final that will ask students to draw on the readings (core and extended) on the syllabus to answer questions that I will pose to you. This will limited resemble a research paper.

4. Readings
This syllabus is subject to change, in discussion with the seminar participants. Readings for each week will be divided into required and supplemental papers. The latter category are primarily intended to support student term paper research rather than discussion in class. You can expect to read about 3-4 papers per week.

5. Course Overview/Topics
Week 00: (Background Reading) Representative Govt & the Purpose of Elections
Week 01: Voters -- Sociotropic, Retrospective, Asymmetric
Week 02: Voters -- Information and Cognition (partisanship, cue-taking, ID)
Week 03: Accountability in Context: Institutions, Coalitions & Clarity
Week 04: Accountability in Context Continued – Developing Countries & Party Systems
Week 05: Electoral Business Cycles and Political Budget Cycles
Week 06: Globalization & Accountability
Week 07: Globalization, Job Insecurity & Compensation
Week 08: Partisan Responses and Effects
Week 09: Electoral Accountability and Corruption
Week 10: Other Economic Effects of Electoral Institutions
Week 11: Economic Determinants of Electoral Institutions
Week 12: Inequality, Voting and Preferences for Redistribution
Week13: (Optional Topic) Districting and Distribution
6. Course Sessions & Readings

**Week 00: (Background Reading) Representative Govt & the Purpose of Elections**


**Week 01: Voters -- Sociotropic, Retrospective, Asymmetric**


**Week 02: Voters – Information and Cognition (partisanship, cue-taking, ID)**


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Week 03: Accountability in Context: Institutions, Coalitions & Clarity


Week 04: Accountability in Context Continued – Developing Countries & Party Systems


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**Week 05: Electoral Business Cycles and Political Budget Cycles**


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**Week 06: Globalization & Accountability**


h. It’s the (World) Economy, Stupid! International Determinants of Presidential Success. Daniela Campello Princeton University campello@princeton.edu, Cesar Zucco Rutgers University zucco@polisci.rutgers.edu. This version: November 18, 2012


Week 07: Globalization, Job Insecurity & Compensation


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**Week 08: Partisan Responses and Effects**


Week 09: Electoral Accountability and Corruption

e. Persson and Tabellini, Effects of Constitutions, Ch. 7
l. Treisman, Daniel. 2007. "What have we learned about the causes of corruption from ten years of cross-national empirical research?" Annual Review of Political Science vol10: 211-44
w. Margit Tavits. 2007. Clarity of Responsibility and Corruption. AJPS 51:1, 218-229

Week 10: Other Economic Effects of Electoral Institutions


**Week 11: Economic Determinants of Electoral Institutions**


d. Vowles, Jack ???? IPSA special issue. New Zealand details.


Week 12: Inequality, Voting and Preferences for Redistribution

Q: What is the relationship between inequality and mobility? Normatively, which should matter for policy?


r. Bartels???. Homer gets a tax cut.


w. Lane Kenworth & Pontusson PoP

x. Lupu & Pontusson APSR 2011


