

**PSCI 4204B/5204B
Elections**

Mondays 11:35a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Steve White
Office: Loeb C677
Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course examines elections in contemporary states from the vantage point of three key functions: representation, legitimation, and accountability and popular control. In surveying how elections are conducted, and the ways in which voters, parties, and candidates for election think and act, we will seek answers to three broad questions: Do elected officials act on behalf of, or speak for, their constituents? How much control do voters have over elected representatives? To what extent do elections legitimize the authority of governments?

Course Objectives

By taking this course, students will:

- Understand the central features of the main types of electoral systems (and the differences between them)
- Understand predominant models of elections, including their assumptions about the psychology and behaviour of voters, and the goals and strategies of parties and candidates
- Develop skills in critiquing and assessing empirical research
- Develop an in-depth knowledge of recent elections in one country

Format

Weekly seminars will focus on topics and readings identified in the schedule. The weekly assigned readings should be completed in advance of the class, and you are expected to keep up with the weekly readings.

Course Materials

Required Texts

Leduc, Lawrence, Richard G. Niemi, and Pippa Norris, eds. *Comparing democracies 4: elections and voting in a changing world*. Sage, 2014.

This text is available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street, TEL: 613-730-9888, EMAIL: info@havenbooks.ca

All other course material is available through ARES system on CULearn.

Evaluation

Overview

Assignment	% Final Grade	Due Date
Seminar participation	15%	Throughout course
Reaction papers	45%	Three papers, submitted on cuLearn before the selected seminar
Term paper	30%	April 15 (on cuLearn)
Seminar leadership	10%	On the date of the selected seminar

Term Work

Reaction Papers (3 @ 15% each): Students will write three papers, each of which reacts to the readings for a particular seminar topic. Students are free to choose the three weeks of readings to which they will respond. Papers must be submitted on cuLearn. Students are advised to retain electronic copies of all their papers for this course. The requirements are as follows:

Requirements for PSCI 4204B students:

Each paper should briefly identify the main argument, ideas, and evidence in all of the required readings for that week, and explain whether and how they are related to each other. You should also explain what you believe are the most significant contributions of the reading, and/or areas where you think the reading is weak. You may focus on concepts, theories and hypotheses, or the quantity or quality of evidence.

Format: MS Word

Word count: approximately 1000 words, not including bibliography

Citation Style: Chicago author-date format

Minimum number of sources: only the seminar readings for that week are necessary

Requirements for PSCI 5204B students:

Each paper should contextualize the concepts, theories and hypotheses, and/or the quantity or quality of evidence in **one reading** for the seminar, by comparing and contrasting one or more of these features with other studies on the same topic.

Format: MS Word

Word count: approximately 1250 words, not including bibliography

Citation Style: Chicago author-date format

Minimum number of sources: three sources, in addition to the seminar readings for that week

Term Paper (30%): The research paper will examine and assess national elections in terms of representation, legitimation, and/or accountability and popular control. You must submit your paper topic in advance and receive

approval from the instructor. Papers must be submitted on cuLearn. Students are advised to retain electronic copies of all their papers for this course.

Requirements for PSCI 4204B students:

The paper should examine national elections in one country.

Format: MS Word

Word count: 3250-3750 words, not including bibliography

Citation Style: Chicago author-date format

Minimum number of sources: 10

Requirements for PSCI 5204B students:

The paper should compare national elections in two countries.

Format: MS Word

Word count: 4,000-5,000 words, not including bibliography

Citation Style: Chicago author-date format

Minimum number of sources: 15

Seminar Leadership (10%): Students are expected to develop a question and a response related to one of the seminar topics and readings. The purpose of the question and response is to generate discussion in the seminar. Students should be prepared to speak for approximately 5-7 minutes. Students must also post their question in the discussion forum on cuLearn **at least four days in advance of the seminar.**

Seminar Participation (15%): Students are expected to attend every class, and be prepared to participate in discussions of the assigned topics and readings. More specifically, in each class students should contribute to discussions about the readings, with respect to methodology, themes, concepts, theories and hypotheses, and quality of evidence.

Policies and Procedures

Late Penalties: All assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 3% for each day beyond the due date.

Extensions: No extensions on assignments will be granted after their due dates. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

E-mail: Students must use a Carleton e-mail account in all correspondence.

Schedule and Required Reading

January 8: Introduction

No assigned reading

January 15: Translating Votes into Seats

Chapter 2 in *Comparing Democracies 4*

Benoit, Kenneth. "Duverger's law and the study of electoral systems." *French Politics* 4, no. 1 (2006): 69-83.

Grofman, Bernard. "Perspectives on the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19 (2016): 523-540.

January 22: Money

Van Biezen, Ingrid. "Campaign and party finance." *Comparing Democracies 3: Elections and Voting in the 21st Century*. London: Sage (2010): 65-94.

Hopkin, Jonathan. "The problem with party finance: Theoretical perspectives on the funding of party politics." *Party politics* 10, no. 6 (2004): 627-651.

Katz R. Mair P. (1995), 'Changing models of party organization and party democracy: the emergence of the cartel party', *Party Politics* 1(1): 5-27.

January 29: Parties and Party Systems

Chapter 3 in *Comparing Democracies 4*

Gunther, Richard, and Larry Diamond. "Species of political parties: A new typology." *Party Politics* 9, no. 2 (2003): 167-199.

February 5: The Downsian Spatial Model

Downs, Anthony. "An economic theory of political action in a democracy." *Journal of Political Economy* 65, no. 2 (1957): 135-150.

Ferejohn, John. "The spatial model and elections." *Information, Participation, and Choice: An Economic Theory of Democracy in Perspective* (1995): 107-24.

Flanagan, Thomas. *Game theory and Canadian politics*. University of Toronto Press, 1998: 140-163.

February 12: Directional Theories

Rabinowitz, George, and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. "A directional theory of issue voting." *American Political Science Review* 83, no. 1 (1989): 93-121.

Ezrow, Lawrence, Jonathan Homola, and Margit Tavits. "When extremism pays: Policy positions, voter certainty, and party support in postcommunist Europe." *The Journal of Politics* 76, no. 2 (2014): 535-547.

Listhaug, Ola, Stuart Elaine Macdonald, and George Rabinowitz. "A comparative spatial analysis of European party systems." *Scandinavian Political Studies* 13, no. 3 (1990): 227-254.

February 19: Winter Break

February 26: Issue Ownership and Valenced Issues

Clarke, Harold D., David Sanders, Marianne C. Stewart, and Paul F. Whiteley. "The Theory of Valence Politics." Chapter. In *Performance Politics and the British Voter*, 30–52. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Petrocik, John R. "Issue ownership in presidential elections, with a 1980 case study." *American journal of political science*(1996): 825-850.

Green, J. (2007). When voters and parties agree: Valence issues and party competition. *Political Studies*, 55(3), 629–655.

March 5: Reward and Punishment

Chapter 7 in *Comparing Democracies 4*

Key, V. O., and Milton C. Cummings. 1966. *The responsible electorate: Rationality in presidential voting, 1936-1960*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-8)

Fiorina, Morris P. 1981. *Retrospective voting in american national elections*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-19)

March 12: A "Realist" Model of Elections

Achen, Christopher H., and Larry M. Bartels. *Democracy for realists: Why elections do not produce responsive government*. Princeton University Press, 2016. Chapter 8 (pp. 213-231).

Zuckerman, Alan S., Josip Dasovic, and Jennifer Fitzgerald. *Partisan families: The social logic of bounded partisanship in Germany and Britain*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. Chapter 1 (p. 1-31)

Green, Donald P., Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. *Partisan hearts and minds: Political parties and the social identities of voters*. Yale University Press, 2004. Chapter 2 (pp. 24-51).

March 19: Electoral Context and Choice

Chapter 8 in *Comparing Democracies 4*

Hellwig, Timothy. "The Structure of Issue Voting in Postindustrial Democracies." *The Sociological Quarterly* 55, no. 4 (2014): 596-624.

Jennings, Will, and Christopher Wlezien. "The timeline of elections: A comparative perspective." *American Journal of Political Science* 60, no. 1 (2016): 219-233.

March 26: The Campaign

Chapter 5 in *Comparing Democracies 4*

Lenz, Gabriel S. "Learning and opinion change, not priming: Reconsidering the priming hypothesis." *American Journal of Political Science* 53, no. 4 (2009): 821-837.

Karp, J. A., S. A. Banducci, and S. Bowler. 2007. "Getting out the Vote: Party Mobilization in a Comparative Perspective." *British Journal of Political Science* 38: 91-112.

April 2: Legitimacy

Chapters 9 and 11 in *Comparing Democracies* 4

Anderson, Christopher. *Losers' consent: Elections and democratic legitimacy*. Oxford University Press, 2005. Chapter 2 (pp. 17-32).

April 9: Course Wrap-Up

No new readings are assigned.

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community.

Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.