

Electoral Processes in the World

Code: 104514
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Francisco Xabier Meilán

Prerequisites

Basic notions of political science

Objectives and Contextualisation

Getting to know the main components and types of existing electoral systems

Understanding the effect that the choice of electoral system can have on the political party system as well as on relationships between the executive and legislative powers

Getting to know how to apply the methodology to observe electoral processes

Understanding the role of the media system in the political life and getting familiar with the methodological tools to analyse media coverage and access to the media by political candidates and parties

Competences

- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Learn and analyse the impacts of the globalisation process on domestic political systems and on the behaviour of the political actors and the public.
- Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
2. Critically evaluate the impacts of globalisation in different areas: security, environment, human rights, migrations and peace.
3. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
4. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
5. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
6. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
7. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
8. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
9. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Content

Topic 1. World Electoral Systems

Topic 2. The Effects of Electoral Systems on Political Life

Topic 3. Comparative Electoral Behaviour

Topic 4. Election Observation

Topic 5. Media and Elections

Methodology

There will be master classes to introduce a topic.

Following each master class (or classes), there will be scheduled presentations by students on previously chosen academic readings. The readings will be related to the topic introduced during the preceding master class session and will be followed by a discussion.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	32	1.28	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Readings presentation and discussion	20	0.8	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Type: Supervised			

Exam	2	0.08	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Tutorials	15	0.6	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Compulsory readings	30	1.2	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Readings' presentations	15	0.6	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Study of learning materials introduced in class	30	1.2	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2

Assessment

1. Written exam (50%). This will assess knowledge acquired by students both at the master classes and at the presentations and discussion of academic readings.
2. Presentation (40%). This mark will include the student's own presentation.
3. Discussion (10%). This mark will include the student's participation at the discussions following others' presentations.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Readings' discussion	10%	0.6	0.02	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Readings' presentation	40%	2.4	0.1	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2
Written exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 6, 5, 2

Bibliography

Basic

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European Union (2016), *Handbook for European Union Election Observation* (third edition) . Vottem: European Union.

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International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (2005), *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook*. Stockholm: International IDEA.

Lipjhart, A. and Grofman, B. (1984) (ed.), *Choosing an Electoral System*, New York: Praeger.

Nohlen, D. (1996), *Elections and Electoral Systems*. Delhi: Macmillan.

Norris, P. (2004), *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) (2012), *Handbook On Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions*. Warsaw: OSCE.

Riker, W. H. (1982), "The Two-party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science", in *American Political Science Review*, 76/4, pp. 753-766.

Taagepera, R. and Shugart, M. (1989), *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Complementary

Cox, G. W. (1997), *Making Votes Count. Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Golder, M. (2005), 'Democratic Electoral Systems Around the World 1946-2000', *Electoral Studies*, 24/1, pp. 103-121

Horowitz, D. L. (2003) 'Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers', *Journal of Democracy*, 14, pp. 115-127

Lijphart, A. (2004), "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies", *Journal of Democracy*, 15/2, pp. 96-109

Michael, G. (1992), 'Comparing Proportional Representation Electoral Systems: Quotas, Thresholds, Paradoxes, and Majorities', *British Journal of Political Science*, 22, pp. 469-496

Moser, R. G. and Scheiner, E. (2004), 'Mixed Electoral Systems and Electoral System Effects: Controlled Comparison and Cross-National Analysis', *Electoral Studies*, 23/4, pp. 575-600