

**Electoral Processes in the World**

Code: 104514  
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	2
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	3	2
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	4	0
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	4	1
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	4	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

**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

**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**

International Relations

- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Contemporary History, Politics and Economics

- Explain and summarise knowledge acquired in English language at an advanced level.
- Identify the main actors, structure and functioning of political systems in the internal and international sphere from a theoretical or applied perspective.
- 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.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
2. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
3. Demonstrate the capacity to continue working in the future autonomously gaining a deeper understanding of the knowledge acquired or embarking on new areas of knowledge.
4. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
5. Explaining political, individual and collective attitudes and behaviours, as well as the education process and expression of political preferences.
6. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
7. Identify the main actors in the political system, examine their interactions and evaluate their behaviour in their environment and in the political system from a theoretical and applied perspective.
8. Identifying and distinguishing the functioning of the electoral processes.
9. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
10. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
11. Identifying the social, economic and political structures of the contemporary world.
12. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
13. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
14. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
15. Producing and preparing presentations of reports and intervention proposals.
16. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
17. Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
18. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
19. Use different theoretical contributions on actors and networks of actors as well as the characteristics of collective action.
20. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
21. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
22. Working autonomously.

## Content

1. Electoral systems and their effects on the political system

Types of Electoral Management Bodies

Majority/plurality electoral systems

Proportional electoral systems. Fragmentation of party systems and government formation.

Mixed electoral systems

Electoral system reform

2. Political communication and electoral campaigns

Political communication and political knowledge. Media systems of the world

Political news. Media routines.

Mass media effects: agenda setting, agenda building and framing.

The media and the election campaign

### 3. Electoral integrity and election observation

How to measure electoral integrity. Election observation.

Legal framework for elections.

Electoral campaign and Election day.

Media and social media observation.

### 4. Comparative electoral behaviour

Effects of cleavages on voting behaviour.

Leaders and issues.

Economic vote. Strategic vote.

Dual and second-order vote. Election turnout.

## 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.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	32	1.28	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Readings presentation and discussion	20	0.8	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Type: Supervised			
Exam	2	0.08	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Tutorials	15	0.6	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21

Type: Autonomous

Compulsory readings	30	1.2	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Readings' presentations	15	0.6	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Study of learning materials introduced in class	30	1.2	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21

## 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 as well as her participation in the debates about others' readings.
3. Participation in class discussions (10%). This percentage of the final mark could be absorbed by the exam if there is not a sufficient number of presencial lectures.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Participation in class discussions	10%	0.6	0.02	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Readings' presentation	40%	2.4	0.1	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21
Written exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 2, 20, 3, 4, 15, 14, 5, 16, 19, 13, 7, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 21

## Bibliography

Basic

European Union (2016), *Compendium of International Standards for Elections*. Antwerpen: European Union. [Available online](#).

European Union (2016), *Handbook for European Union Election Observation* (third edition) . Vottem: European Union. [Available online](#).

Farrell, D. M. (2001), *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. London and New York: Palgrave. [Available as e-book](#).

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

Lange, B.P., and Ward, D. (2004). *The Media and Elections. A Handbook and Comparative Study*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers. [Available as e-book](#).

VVAA (1993), "Choosing an Electoral System" in *Journal of Democracy*, 4/1, pp. 53-91. [Available online](#).

Norris, P. (2004), *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Available as e-book](#).

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

Perloff, R.M. (2014), *The Dynamics of Political Communication. Media and Politics in a Digital Age*. New York: Routledge. [Available as e-book](#).

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. [Available online](#).

#### Complementary

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

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

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

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

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. [Available online](#).

#### Software

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