



THURSDAY, 10.00-11.30
ROOM: B402



GEOGRAPHY OF ELECTIONS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will focus on the political geography of elections, dealing with the politics of the electoral process. We will examine how elections contribute to the development and use of power and legitimacy in political systems. Most attention will be given to the analysis of the electoral systems, how they influence voters' choices.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you should have attained the following skills

- Demonstrate an understanding of the development of the electoral systems
- Compare the different electoral systems
- Explain and analyze the manipulative tendencies, attributes

REQUIREMENTS

An exam, and two in-class reflection papers required for this course. In addition, attendance is also required. You may have two unexcused absences in this course. The requirements are weighted below:

20% presence

Take attendance in each class. You should be on time and ready for discussion each day.

20% in-class reflection papers 2@10% each (Reflection paper: up to 2 pages)

TNR, 12 font size, 1,5 spaced pages

60% final written examination

We will have one exam in the final exam period. You have to register on one date, in case of a failed exam, you can come for a second time.

- 14th December 2023, 10:00pm-11.30am
- 21st December 2023, 10:00am-11.30am / Third, retake exam: 9th January, 10:00am



Follow the course hashtags on Twitter at @UpVoros: #electoralstudies
More of my thoughts on Facebook at facebook.com/zoltan.voros.uni



LECTURER

Dr. Zoltán VÖRÖS

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Email is the preferred way to reach me.

Office Hours: TH 13.30-14.30

COURSE OVERVIEW

<i>(week) (date)</i>	<i>(description)</i>
(1) 14th September	Introduction Course overview; Discussion of requirements.
(2) 21st September	Geography of Elections The Electoral Systems, Basics
(3) 28th September	<i>No class: Erasmus</i>
(4) 5th October	Plurality/Majority Systems I. Single-member plurality (SMP); Alternative vote (AV);
(5) 12th October	Plurality/Majority Systems II. Two-round system (2RS); Block Vote (BV); Party Block Vote (PBV) <i>Reflection paper Nr. 1.: Is stability the most important goal?</i>
(6) 19th October	Proportional Systems I. The Closed List Systems (CPL)
(7) 26th October	<i>No class: Fall vacation</i>
(8) 2nd November	Proportional Systems II. The Preferential List Systems and the STV (FPL, OPL, STV) <i>Reflection paper Nr. 2.: Loyalty towards the Party or the People?</i>
(9) 9th November	Mixed Systems I. Mixed compensatory (MC); Mixed parallel (MP)
(10) 16th November	Mixed Systems II. The Hungarian way
(11) 23rd November	<i>No class: Erasmus</i>
(12) 30th November	Other Systems SNTV, LV, BC
	How to Rig an Election? The different ways and methods of manipulation
(13) 7th December	Summary

LITERATURE

- Ronald John JOHNSTON: Political, Electoral and Spatial Systems. An Essay in Political Geography. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1979;
- Peter J. TAYLOR–Ronald John JOHNSTON: Geography of Elections. Hommes and Meier Publishers, London–New York, 1979;
- Graham GUDGIN–Peter J. TAYLOR: Seats, Votes and the Spatial Organisation of Elections. Pion, London, 1979;
- Developments in Electoral Geography. Ed.: Ronald John JOHNSTON–Fred M. SHELLEY–Peter J. TAYLOR. Routledge–Croom Helm, London–New York, 1990.
- Michael GALLAGHER–Paul MITCHELL (Ed.): The Politics of Electoral Systems. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005.

Required readings will be available in Moodle.

EVALUATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Class Participation Policy

Class participation will be evaluated as your active participation in discussion and lecture. This is not an attendance grade but an evaluation of your willingness to discuss the material covered in lecture, respond to questions, and ability to engage other students in the class in a respectful and productive manner.

Work Submission Policy

All work must be submitted to me on the day it is due. The preferred way is to send it by email in .doc format. I will not accept work submitted to the main political science office or shoved under my door.

Late Work Submission Policy

Make up exams or paper extensions will be offered only in cases where there is a legitimate, documented, and excused absence. If you know you will be missing a day when an assignment is due, it is best to speak to me prior to the absence. Make up exams will not be the same exam as provided to the rest of the class and may not be in the same format. Late work, when acceptable, must be submitted in person. Unexcused late work, if accepted, will be penalized.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required in this course but should not be conflated with class participation. Students missing more than two class without prior approval or with a documented emergency cannot sit for the exam and will not be given any grade. To receive an excused absence, you must contact me prior to the class that will be missed, if possible, or provide documentation of an emergency upon your return. Chronic lateness or absences will make it difficult for you to succeed in class.

Platforms:



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

Your (Neptun-)registered email account is the official communication venue for the University of Pécs. All course changes and other announcements will be through Neptun and that account. You are strongly urged to check your email at least twice a day for the duration of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must do their own work. Cheating, fabrication of resources, plagiarism, or the facilitation of any of these behaviors will result in a failing grade for the course and offenders will receive a *1 - Failed* for this course. On papers and exams, doing your own work is absolutely essential. In all papers, you must cite the sources of any information, quotations or ideas which are not your own, using standard citation methods (Chicago Style or MLA). Let me be very clear: you cannot clip and past text from the internet into your papers and pass it off as your own writing. You cannot turn in a paper that someone else has written or that you have bought or downloaded from online. Plagiarism might also be reported to the Faculty.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

This course will respect both the academic freedom and free speech rights of students. We will not shy away from controversial issues but will treat each other with respect and dignity. It is impossible to predict an individual's response to any particular set of arguments and some issues or discussions may make some people uncomfortable. However, this is not a course in politics but rather one in political science. Thus, all opinions and "facts" will be subject to scrutiny and truth-tested with the tools of social science, which may also make some individuals uncomfortable. Not all opinions are equally valid and opinion in no way substitutes for causal analysis backed by peer-reviewed research and credible sources of authority.

Concerns about the content or conduct of this course should be directed to the Department.

Rude, obstreperous, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom. Students who indulge in any of these behaviors will be asked to leave. Rude behavior includes but is not limited to interrupting other speakers, participating in private conversations, text messaging, or creating an environment not conducive to reasoned debate and discussion.