

CEU, Political Science Department

Political Parties and Party Systems

Winter 2009 semester

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Readings

Political Parties and Party Systems

M.A. Course, Winter 2009

Instructor

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Classes

Wednesdays, 13:30-15:10

Office hours

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

Credits

2 CEU credits, 4 ECTS credits

Course Description

Political parties are the principal actors of the representative process of modern mass democracies. Most dilemmas that challenge contemporary societies are reflected in their internal life and in their competitive behavior. The course presents socio-cultural, rational choice and institutionalist explanations for the birth and behavior of political parties. It analyzes the intra-organizational dynamics of parties, their patterns of competition and cooperation, the logic of coalition building and the way how parties change under the pressure of European integration. There will be a special emphasis on the institutionalization of parties and party systems. The empirical material of this otherwise theory-focused course mainly comes from America (Northern and Southern) and Europe (Eastern and Western), and the regional differences will receive special attention.

Course Requirements

No prior knowledge is required. Students are expected to be present at all meetings, to read and critically reflect on the mandatory readings listed below. If one is unable to attend the class, (s)he should signal this via e-mail to the lecturer. Activity in the classroom can be complemented with questions, suggestions and comments sent to the

lecturer 24 hours prior to the meetings.

Evaluation

The final grade is composed of the results of an in-door exam (30%), class activity (20%), one three-pages (cca. 1000 words) long position paper (25%) and one oral presentation (25%). The position papers are expected to reflect on the mandatory reading of the week, summarizing its main points and interpreting it in the light of the previous readings and lectures. The student decides for which weeks she prepares a position paper. The position papers must arrive 24 hours before the particular week's meeting to the e-mailbox of the instructor. The presentations are also expected to be related to the topic of the week, but in this case complementing it by describing phenomena not analyzed by the texts in the reader. The topic of the presentations must be chosen during the first two weeks of the course, through a consultation with the lecturer.

Learning Outcomes and their assessment

The overall grade will primarily indicate the ability of the students to comprehend the ways parties operate in modern societies. Among the learning outcomes of the M.A. program this course supports particularly the abilities to actively engage with important political science debates and to comprehend and critique advanced political science texts. The ability to hold an academic conversation, make oral presentations and participate in scholarly debates will be primarily measured by the grade given to class activity and the oral presentations. The ability to use English grammar, vocabulary and style appropriate for written academic products, to construct academic and critical arguments will be measured by the position paper. The in-door exam will reflect on the knowledge of the students gained in the class on the structure of party politics and its links to the wider cultural and institutional environment. By increasing the ability to apply the tools of sociology and political science in the analysis of elections the course will help students to obtain a certificate in Electoral Politics.

First week

The emergence of political parties

Boix, Carles (2006): The Emergence of Parties and Party Systems in *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, ed. by Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, pp. 500-521.

Second week

Party organization

Gallagher, Michael and Marsh, Michael (2002). *Days of Blue Loyalty: the politics of membership of the Fine Gael Party*. Dublin: PSAI Press, 115-141.

Third week

Institutionalization of party organization

Panbianco, Angelo 1988. *Political Parties: Organization and Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3-20, 49-68.

Fourth week

Parties and society

Enyedi, Zsolt 2008. The Social and Attitudinal Basis of Political Parties: Cleavage Politics Revisited, *European Review*, 2008, vol. 16, no. 3, no. 3, 287-304.

Fifth week

Party competition

Strom, Kaare, 1990. A Behavioral Theory of Competitive Political Parties. *American Journal of Political Science*, 34, 565-598.

Sixth week

Systems of parties

Mair, Peter, 1997. Party System and Structures of Competition. In: *Party System Change. Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 199-223.

Seventh week

Parties and the state

Katz, Richard S., Peter Mair, 1995. Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party, *Party Politics*, 1, 5-28.

Eighth week

Political representation

Strom, Kaare, Wolfgang. C. Müller, Torbjörn Bergman and Benjamin Nyblade 2003. Dimension of Citizen Control. In: Kaare Strom, Wolfgang C. Müller and Torbjörn Bergman (eds.) *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 651-706.

Ninth week

The logic of government building

Maor, Moshe 1998. *Parties, Conflicts and Coalitions in Western Europe*. London and New York: Routledge, 1-17, 143-154.

Tenth week

Party system institutionalization

Mainwaring, Scott, and Timothy R. Scully. 1995. Party Systems in Latin America. In: Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1-34.

Eleventh week

Parties and Post-Communist Consolidation

Lewis, Paul G. 2006. Party Systems in Post-Communist Central Europe: Patterns of Stability and Consolidation, *Democratization*, 13, 4, 562-583.

Twelfth week

In-door exam and wrapping up.