POLSC AD – 131-001 -- Elections and Voting  
(as of January 19, 2014)

Class Meeting Times: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:35 am to 12:50 pm (14 week class)
Class Location: Sama 1311

Instructor: Professor R. Morton
Email (best way to contact): rbm5@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 am – 11 am or by appointment
Office Address & Office Phone Number: 1417A Sama, +971 (0)26-28-5038

Course Objectives

In this course we will draw on both theory and evidence to investigate the interplay between voters’ preferences and electoral processes. We will focus on the current academic literature as well as elections that have taken place recently. The course will in particular consider these processes in India. As India will be having an election this spring, the course will include a visit to India during spring break for students to get first hand information on the electoral process there.

The course will be taught seminar-style where each week students will be expected to read one or more research articles either on the general election process or a particular election which took place or will take place in 2010 or later, which we will then discuss as a class (as explained below).

Prerequisites: None

Texts and Other Readings

There will be no required texts for the class; instead we will read research articles as listed below in the course schedule. However, there are a number of texts that you might find valuable as references:

Rebecca Morton, Analyzing Elections
Paul Wallace and Ramashray Roy, India’s 2009 Elections: Coalition Politics, Party Competition, and Congress Continuity
Steven Wilkinson, Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India
Hans-Dieter Klingemann, The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems
Bernard Grofman, Andre Blais, and Shawn Bowler, Duverger’s Law of Plurality Voting: The Logic of Party Competition in Canada, India, the United Kingdom and the United States
Mark Franklin, Voter Turnout and the Dynamics of Electoral Competition in Established Democracies since 1945
William Riordan, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall
Gary Cox, Making Votes Count
Daniel Posner, Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa
Lisa Blaydes, *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*

You will also find the following websites valuable:

- [http://aceproject.org](http://aceproject.org)
- [http://www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org)
- [http://www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)

### Course Grades

Grades on all assignments and the final course grade will be computed according to the following numerical scale. If a letter grade is given on an assignment, the corresponding highest numerical value will be given to that assignment for the computation of course averages.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Scale</th>
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<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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Course grades will be composed of the following components (each component is described in detail below) with the weights associated:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Thought Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Elections Thought Papers</td>
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### Attendance

This class will be taught as a seminar class in which students are expected to do readings in advance and contribute to class discussions. Students often learn much from such discussions and thus attendance and participation in class discussions are important components of the class requirements. Absences are permitted if a student has an illness or a family has a serious illness or the student is required to attend an official university event. Students are expected to provide proof that an absence occurred for one of these reasons.
Election Thought Papers

For each class, one student will give a brief report on a recent election in the first 20-30 minutes of class. The student will be expected to write a one-page brief description of the election and any interesting new development that occurred during the election to share with the class. For example, the student should address some of the following questions: who were the candidates and who won? How many years have elections been used in the country, are there established political parties, do they use campaign contributions, are interest groups involved in the election, opinion polls? Are their ethnic and/or racial or religious divisions? Was their violence and/or vote-buying or other types of fraud or efforts to subvert the electoral process? Students should focus on one particular issue that can be addressed in 20-30 minutes and be prepared to answer questions from other students about the election. The second class meeting day we will assign the elections.

Research Thought Papers

After discussing the recent election assigned for that day, the remainder of each class will discuss the two assigned readings for that day. For each reading, one student will be assigned to write a 1-2 page thought paper on that reading. These thought papers will be used for class discussion about the readings of the class and will be expected to be uploaded to NYU Classes 24 hours before class begins. The thought papers are meant to be a chance for you to write down in advance of class questions you had about the readings, critiques you had about the points made in the readings, or new points that you thought of concerning the topic of the readings. A good thought paper should spend no more than 1 paragraph simply summarizing the readings’ main points, but should be primarily devoted to critiques and questions. You should be prepared to discuss your thought papers with the rest of the class and bring copies for fellow class members. The second class meeting day we will assign the readings and thought papers. Occasionally there will be readings assigned to everyone in the class to read. For these readings every student will be expected to write a ONE-page report.

Research Paper Comparing Elections and Voting in India and the US

Students will be expected to submit a research paper comparing voting and elections in India with another country. The research paper should be 15-20 pages long, excluding references. The paper should begin with a research question and address the question drawing on the empirical literature on voting and elections in the India and the other country. The paper should draw also from research students conduct during our visit to India in the spring. You will be required to submit a 2-4 page proposal for the paper by Monday, March 17th. A first draft of your paper will be due by Wednesday, April 30th. All students will present their papers to class on Wednesday, May 14th and the final paper will be due on Wednesday, May 21st by 5 pm. Here are some examples of possible research questions in a comparison of the US and India, although students should select their own questions in consultation with the instructor and do not need to
compare the US with India but can compare India’s elections with another country of their choosing:
“Is the relationship between education and political participation in India different from the US and other countries?”
“How would the US electoral system work if a quota system such as that used in some Indian elections was implemented in the US?”
“Are women more likely to achieve election in India or the US?”
“How would the US electoral system work if a quota system such as that used in some Indian elections was implemented in the US?”
“Where is money more important in determining election outcomes: the US or India?”
“Are the dominant political parties in India dominant for the same reasons that the Democrats and Republicans are dominant in the US?”
“In which country is it easier to vote in elections and why: India or the US?”
“Are there lessons from the US voting and civil rights movements for India? Are there lessons from India’s history of ethnic issues in elections for the US?”
“Could US style primaries work in India?”

Course Schedule and Readings for Each Day

Wednesday, January 29th – Introduction to Class

Monday, February 3rd – What is an Election?
Assignment of thought papers, overview of election process
EVERYONE READ, EVERYONE prepare a ONE-page report: Classifying political regimes, By: Alvarez, M; Cheibub, JA; Limongi, F; et al.

Wednesday, February 5th – What is an Election?
Election to be discussed in class: Australia’s legislative elections (held September 7th, 2013), assigned to: _______________________________________________________
Readings for thought papers:
2. Electoral governance matters - Explaining the quality of elections in contemporary Latin America

By: Hartlyn, Jonathan; McCoy, Jennifer; Mustillo, Thomas M.

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES Volume: 41 Issue: 1 Pages: 73-98 Published: JAN 2008


Monday, February 10th – Are elections valuable?

Election to be discussed in class: Norway’s parliament election (held September 9th, 2013), assigned to: ____________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:

1. Inter-country differences in voter satisfaction with the democratic process: a study of world elections

By: Borooah, Vani K.; Katos, Anastasios B.; Katsouli, Eleni

PUBLIC CHOICE Volume: 157 Issue: 3-4 Special Issue: SI Pages: 569-584 Published: DEC 2013


2. ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF ELECTIONS

By: Norris, Pippa; Frank, Richard W.; Coma, Ferran Martinez

I JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY Volume: 24 Issue: 4 Pages: 124-135 Published: OCT 2013
Wednesday, February 12th – Clientelism and Manipulation

Election to be discussed in class: Rwanda legislative election (held September 16th, 2013), assigned to: ________________

Readings for thought papers:
EVERYONE READ:

1. Clientelism By: Hicken, Allen Edited by: Levi, M; Jackman, S; Rosenblum, N
http://apps.webofknowledge.com/full_record.do?product=WOS&search_mode=GeneralSearch&qid=64&SID=2Fj6QyZkQk6FQAbsgOi&page=5&doc=49, assigned to: ________________

http://apps.webofknowledge.com/full_record.do?product=WOS&search_mode=GeneralSearch&qid=64&SID=2Fj6QyZkQk6FQAbsgOi&page=5&doc=49, assigned to: ________________
Monday, February 17th – Electoral Systems and Electoral Monitoring
Election to be discussed in class: Northern Cyprus legislative election (held July 28th, 2013), assigned to:

Readings for thought papers:
EVERYONE READ:

http://www.jstor.org/stable/40060180, assigned to: ________________________________

Wednesday, February 19th – Vote Buying
Election to be discussed in class: Venezuela presidential election (held April 14th, 2013), assigned to: ________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
2. Vicente, Pedro C. 2013. “Is Vote---buying Effective? Evidence from a Field Experiment in West Africa.” The Economic Journal forthcoming (copy will be uploaded on NYU Classes), assigned to:

Monday, February 24th – Violence and Elections
Readings for thought papers:
Election to be discussed in class: Zimbabwe’s legislative and presidential elections (held July 31st, 2013), assigned to: __________________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:

2. Elections and Ethnic Civil War By: Cederman, Lars-Erik; Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede; Hug, Simon COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES Volume: 46 Issue: 3 Pages: 387-417 Published: MAR 2013

Wednesday, February 26th – Vote Buying and Clientelism
Election to be discussed in class: Japan legislative elections (held December 16th, 2012), assigned to:

Readings for thought papers:

Monday, March 3rd – Ethnicity and Indian Political Parties
Election to be discussed in class: Iranian presidential election (held June 14th, 2013), assigned to: _______________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:

2. Dynastic parties: Organization, finance and impact By: Chhibber, Pradeep, PARTY POLITICS Volume: 19 Issue: 2 Special Issue: SI Pages: 277-295 Published: MAR 2013

Wednesday, March 5th – Indian Elections and Government Responsiveness
Election to be discussed in class: Paraguay presidential and legislative elections (held April 21st, 2013), assigned to: _________________________________________________________
Readings for thought papers:

Author(s): Yogendra Yadav, Source: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 34, No. 34/35 (Aug. 21 - Sep. 3, 1999), pp. 2393-2399, Published by: Economic and Political Weekly
http://www.jstor.org/stable/4408334, assigned to: ______________________________

Monday, March 10th – Indian Elections and the Poor and Voting
Election to be discussed in class: Philippines legislative elections (held May 13th, 2013), assigned to:

Readings for thought papers:

2. Yogendra Yadav, Representation, see copy uploaded on NYU Classes, assigned to: _______________________________________________________

Wednesday, March 12th – Interpretations of Indian Elections
Election to be discussed in class: Italy presidential election (held April 20th, 2013), assigned to:

Readings for thought papers:
1. Sacred Elections
Author(s): Mukulika Banerjee, Source: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 42, No. 17 (Apr. 28 - May 4, 2007), pp. 1556-1562, Published by: Economic and Political Weekly
http://www.jstor.org/stable/4419523, assigned to: ______________________________


Monday, March 17th – Hindu Nationalism and Indian Elections
Election to be discussed in class: Bangladesh presidential election (held April 22nd, 2013), assigned to: ________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
1. The Ambivalent Moderation of Hindu Nationalism in India, By: Mitra, Subrata K.
AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE Volume: 48 Issue: 3 Pages: 269-285 Published: SEP 1 2013

2. The Political Logic of Ethnic Violence: The Anti-Muslim Pogrom in Gujarat, 2002
By: Dhattiwala, Raheel; Biggs, Michael, POLITICS & SOCIETY Volume: 40 Issue: 4 Pages: 483-516 Published: DEC 2012

Wednesday, March 19th – Trip to India will take place around this time.

Monday, March 31st – Special class, post trip to India discussion

Wednesday, April 2nd – Accountability and Elections
Election to be discussed in class: Mongolia presidential election (held June 26th, 2013),
assigned to: ________________________________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL-APPLIED ECONOMICS Volume: 5 Issue: 4 Pages: 241-255 Published: OCT 2013
2. Exposing corrupt politicians: The effects of Brazil's publicly released audits on electoral outcomes
   By: Ferraz, Claudio; Finan, Frederico, QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS Volume: 123 Issue: 2 Pages: 703-745 Published: MAY 2008

Monday, April 7th – Accountability in Chinese Elections

Election to be discussed in class: Germany legislative election (held September 22nd, 2013), assigned to: _____________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
1. Local governance and public goods provision in rural China
   By: Zhang, XB; Fan, SG; Zhang, LX; et al. JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS Volume: 88 Issue: 12 Pages: 2857-2871 Published: DEC 2004

2. Elections, fiscal reform and public goods provision in rural China
   By: Luo, Renfu; Zhang, Linxiu; Huang, Jikun; et al. JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS Volume: 35 Issue: 3 Pages: 583-611 Published: SEP 2007
Wednesday, April 9th – More on Election Observers
Election to be discussed in class: Maldives presidential election (held November 9th and 16th, 2013), assigned to: __________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
1. Deterring or Displacing Electoral Irregularities? Spillover Effects of Observers in a Randomized Field Experiment in Ghana
   By: Ichino, Nahomi; Schuendeln, Matthias

2. In the Shadow of Democracy Promotion Strategic Manipulation, International Observers, and Election Boycotts
   By: Beaulieu, Emily; Hyde, Susan D., COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES Volume: 42 Issue: 3, Pages: 392-415 Published: MAR 2009

Monday, April 14th – More on Vote Buying and Clientelism
Election to be discussed in class: Kenyan legislative and presidential elections (held March 4th, 2013), assigned to: _____________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
Wednesday, April 16th – Political parties
Election to be discussed in class: Costa Rican legislative and presidential elections (scheduled for February 2nd, 2014), assigned to: ________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
1. The emergence of mass partisanship in Russia, 1993-1996 By: Brader, T; Tucker, JA

2. The elephant, umbrella, and quarrelling cocks: Disaggregating partisanship in Ghana’s fourth republic By: Fridy, Kevin S. Conference: Annual Meeting of the African-Studies-Association Location: Washington, DC Date: NOV 17-20, 2005

Monday, April 21st – More on ethnicity and elections
Election to be discussed in class: Ethiopia presidential election (held October 7th, 2013), assigned to: ________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
1. The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi By: Posner, DN AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW Volume: 98 Issue: 4 Pages: 529-545 Published: NOV 2004
Wednesday, April 23rd – New election systems

Election to be discussed in class: Thailand legislative election (scheduled for February 2nd, 2014), assigned to:

Readings for thought papers:


Monday, April 28th – More on clientelism and age of democracy
Election to be discussed in class: Switzerland referenda (scheduled for February 9th, 2014), assigned to: ______________________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:

Wednesday, April 30th – On selection methods
Election to be discussed in class: Slovakian presidential election (scheduled for March 15th, 2014), assigned to: ______________________________________________________________

Readings for thought papers:
Monday, May 5th – Migration and elections

Election to be discussed in class: Guinea-Bissau legislative and presidential elections (scheduled for March 16th, 2014), assigned to: __________________________________

Readings for thought papers:


**Wednesday, May 7th** – More on migration and elections

Election to be discussed in class: Indonesian legislative elections (scheduled for April 9th, 2014), assigned to: ____________________________

1. Does migration promote democratization? Evidence from the Mexican transition, By: Pfutze, Tobias, JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS Volume: 40 Issue: 2 Pages: 159-175 Published: MAY 2012


**Monday, May 12th** –

Election to be discussed in class: Afghanistan presidential election (scheduled for April 5th, 2014), assigned to: ____________________________

Readings for thought papers:


COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES Volume: 45 Issue: 10 Pages: 1255-1276 Published: OCT 2012


Wednesday, May 14th – Student Presentations