Overview. What factors influence vote choice? Why do voters around the world face such different options at the ballot box? Do campaigns matter? Do elections? In this course, we will explore the social, political and institutional determinants of voting behaviour, and of variation in the number and types of political parties that exist. We will also discuss the different electoral strategies available to politicians around the world – from ‘priming’ to pork – and discuss their effectiveness and prevalence in different contexts. Examples will be drawn from both developed and developing countries, from established democracies as well as hybrid regimes.

Prerequisites. There are no formal prerequisites for this class, but a good foundational knowledge of general political science concepts, theories, and basic quantitative and qualitative methods would be advantageous. Moreover, students should be able to understand and express themselves in English, as this will be the classroom language – though perfection is neither expected nor required. The term paper should also be written in English.

Assessment. Your grade in this class will be based on (i) in-class participation (20%) and (ii) a term paper of not more than 10,000 words on one (or more) topics covered in the class (80%).

Participation. As this is a graduate seminar, and not a lecture, the success of the seminar will hinge entirely on your active participation in class discussion. In addition, participants will be asked to lead discussion for one session over the course of the semester (with potentially more than one participant charged with leading the discussion in some sessions). Discussion leaders should facilitate discussion of the compulsory readings for the week by (i) identifying key themes and concept; (ii) guiding class discussion of the strengths and shortcomings of the various readings, and (iii) encouraging reflection on how the readings relate to one another (or even to topics covered in earlier weeks). If more than one student is responsible for leading discussion in a particular week, each will receive a separate grade. Your participation grade based will be based on the quality of the discussion questions you propose and how well you are able to facilitate discussion, as well as evidence of engagement throughout the seminar. I will allocate discussion responsibilities to seminar participants shortly after the first session (though you are free to coordinate an exchange with another participant – just let me know prior to the session).

Term paper. You will be expected to submit a one-page proposal to the instructor outlining the (i) research question/puzzle, (ii) theory and/or hypotheses and (iii) research design for your term paper by 23:55 CET on 13 December 2019. The paper should be submitted electronically.
in PDF format by email to the instructor by 23:55 CET on 28 February 2020. References and appendices will not count towards the word limit. Late submissions will be penalised unless previously arranged with the instructor. Paper submissions will be checked for plagiarism.

Readings. Readings will be made available to enrolled students via ILIAS, and students will be expected to have completed the week’s compulsory readings before each session. We will read excerpts from classic texts, as well as more recent studies from the research frontier. You will be expected to read about 100 pages of material per week. Further reading is also suggested (in chronological order) for participants who may want to deepen their knowledge of a particular topic, especially if considering writing a term paper on that topic.

Key Dates.
- 9 October 2019: first session
- 13 December 2019: deadline for one-page proposal (23:55 CET)
- 29 January 2020: last session
- 28 February 2020: deadline for term paper (23:55 CET)

Course Schedule

9 October: Why Elections?


Part I. Institutions

16 October: Electoral Rules & Party Systems


Further reading (including on the origins of electoral institutions):

23 October: Presidentialism, Parliamentarism and Parties


Further reading:
- Samuels and Shugart. 2010. Presidents, Parties, and Prime Ministers, remaining chapters.

30 October: Party System Nationalisation


Further reading:

### 6 November: Parties and Elections under Authoritarianism


**Further reading:**

Part II. Values and Identities

13 November: The ‘Freezing Hypothesis’ & Its Critics


Further reading:


20 November: Party Attachments and Partisanship


Further reading:


27 November: Class Dealignment in Industrial Democracies


Further reading:

- George Orwell. 1937. *The Road to Wigan Pier*, chs. 8-10.
4 December: The Rise of the Radical Right


Further reading:
- Rafaela Dancygier. 2010. Immigration and Conflict in Europe.
- Lena Bustikova. 2014. ‘Revenge of the radical right.’ Comparative Political Studies 47: 1738-1765.
- Sergi Pardos Prado. 2015. ‘How can mainstream parties prevent niche party success?

11 December: Ethnic Parties and Ethnic Voting


Further reading:

**Part III. How to Win an Election**

**18 December: Parties and Party Competition**


**Further reading:**


**8 January: Theories of Voting Behaviour**


Further reading:

15 January: Campaigns and Persuasion


Further reading:

**22 January: The Economic Vote**

- Raymond Duch and Randy Stevenson. 2006. ‘Assessing the magnitude of the economic vote over time and across nations.’ *Electoral Studies* 25(3): 528-547.

*Further reading:*

**29 January: Electoral Accountability in Poor or New Democracies**


*Further reading:*