Objectives and Approach:
Parties and elections are crucial parts of every democracy. Political parties organize electoral choices and translate popular priorities into government policy. Elections provide the people with a voice, allowing them to select their leaders and thus, influence policy. This course is designed to engage the current literature on parties and elections, with a focus on the theoretical expectations for party, legislator, and voter behavior. We will analyze issues of representation, party creation & survival, and electoral behavior, and will perform in-depth investigations of several case studies.

Course Assignments and Grading:
10% = Discussion in Class/In-class Activities
10% = Discussion Paper
35% = Representation Paper
10% = Representation Presentation
35% = Final Exam

Class attendance is required, and you will be responsible for all lecture materials. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss the reading in lecture.

Description of the Course Assignments:
Final Exam: This is an in-class, closed book test that will include both objective and essay questions.
Discussion Paper: You must submit a discussion paper on or before May 5. In other words, the last day that anyone can submit a discussion paper is Tuesday, May 5.
The discussion papers should be submitted at the beginning of lecture, and should engage the readings of that day. This discussion paper is expected to be a reflective response to the reading assignment infused with some of your thoughts about the integration of the findings of the chosen readings with current events. Additionally, the discussion paper can include a critical response to the readings. I would like you to conclude your discussion paper with three questions that will provoke and stimulate classroom discussion.
Please note: There are no allowances for late discussion papers, and discussion papers that are simply a summary of the assigned reading will be considered weak and will receive substantially fewer points.
If you are an undergraduate: the discussion paper should be 5-6 pages, double-spaced.
If you are a graduate student: the discussion paper should be 9-10 pages, double-spaced.

Representation Paper & Presentation: Representation is key to our understanding of electoral systems and parties. Depending on the system design and the parties present, certain groups are represented well in government, while others are represented at levels much lower than their proportion of society. Your paper will describe and discuss an under-represented group in a particular country (i.e., brief history of the group, patterns of past representation, which parties this group tends to support, etc.), and will analyze why that group is under-represented. You may choose the country (but it must be one of our case studies), as well as the group to analyze. Electoral institutions will surely play a role in your paper, but you are encouraged to consider other variables that could affect
representation. Evidence and outside sources are required to support any argument. Your paper is due on Friday, June 12. However, you will present your preliminary results on the day that your country is discussed in class. For example, if you choose to investigate a group in Russia, you should be prepared to present your analysis to the class on May 19. Visual aids are highly encouraged, and remember: this presentation is 10% of your grade, so it is worth your time to make it interesting and coherent.

If you are an undergraduate: the representation paper should be 10-12 pages, double-spaced. If you are a graduate student: the paper should be at least 25 pages, double-spaced. Please note: You must turn in a paper copy of your paper on June 12 AND also email me an electronic copy (mev@pdx.edu) on June 12.

**Policies**

**Late Paper Policy:** Discussion papers will not be accepted late- a paper copy must be submitted on the day of the lecture. The representation paper will be accepted late, but there is a half-grade penalty for each day that it is late. For example, if it is one day late, the highest grade you can receive on the paper is an ‘A-’

**Emailed Paper Policy:** Discussion papers will not be accepted via email- only paper copies will be accepted. A copy of the representation paper should be sent via email, but that is not sufficient- you must also submit a paper copy.

**Academic Honesty:** Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are closed-book, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced. Any academic dishonesty will without exception be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

**Readings**

**Books:** The following books have been ordered by the PSU bookstore- all readings are required.


**Articles:** In addition, there will be articles online. You can access these articles via my website, or via any computer with a PSU connection. (hereafter referred to as “ONLINE ARTICLE”)

**Class Schedule:**

**Tues, March 31:** Introduction and logistics

**Thurs, April 2:** Types of Electoral Systems: Majoritarian & Proportional Representation
1. Farrell, *Electoral Systems*, Ch. 2, 3, 4

**Tues, April 7:** Overview of Parties
1. Farrell, *Electoral Systems*, Ch. 7
2. Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 4
3. Dalton, *Democratic Linkage*, Ch. 1 & 2
**Thurs, April 9:** The Personal Vote  
1. Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 10  

**Tues, April 14:** Types of Electoral Systems: Mixed Member & STV  
1. Farrell, *Electoral Systems*, Ch. 5 & 6

**Thurs, April 16:** Consequences of Electoral Systems: Representation  

**Tues, April 21:** Party Ideology  
1. Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 5 & 6  
2. Dalton, *Democratic Linkage*, Ch. 4 & 5

**Thurs, April 23:** Parties in Government  
1. Dalton, *Democratic Linkage*, Ch. 7 & 8  

**Tues, April 28:** Representation Paper Writing Day! Writing and Data Gathering Workshop!  
**You must bring the introductory paragraph of your representation paper to this class (which of course means that you have finalized your selection of an under-represented group).**

**Thurs, April 30:** Who Runs? Candidate Selection  

**Tues, May 5:** Parties & Elections in Authoritarian Regimes  
Thurs, May 7: Class Cancelled

Tues, May 12: USA
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 3

Thurs, May 14: UK
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 2

Tues, May 19: Russia
2. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 7

Thurs, May 21: France
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 4

Tues, May 26: Germany
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 5

Thurs, May 28: Brazil
2. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 12

Tues, June 2: Japan
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 6

Thurs, June 4: South Africa
1. O’Neil, *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Ch. 13

Tuesday, June 9: FINAL EXAM (5:30-7:20pm)

Friday, June 12: Representation Paper Due
**Turn in a paper copy to my mailbox (6th floor of Urban Building) by 4pm and email an electronic copy to me (mev@pdx.edu).**