

PS 1399
Analysis of Comparative Politics: Comparative Parties and Elections
University of Pittsburgh • Spring 2022
Professor Jae-Jae Spoon

Email: spoonj@pitt.edu

Meeting: In-person in 316 Old Engineering Hall. On Zoom at <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96242279747>. Passcode is PS 1399.

Office Hours/Location: Tues. and Thurs. 1-2:30 pm or by appointment in 4441 WWPH. Office hours will be on Zoom through Jan. 25th. Zoom link is <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/9068374841>.

TA: Melek Hilal Eroglu

Email: mee57@pitt.edu

Office Hours/Location: Mon. 12:30-2:30 in 4434 WWPH. Office hours will be on Zoom through Jan. 25th. Zoom link is <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96937868167>.

Course Description

The study of political parties and elections is one of the most exciting fields in political science. In this course, we'll look at the formation, evolution, and role political parties play in society. We'll explore party strategy, party and electoral systems, and government formation. We'll take a comparative approach and explore political parties primarily in advanced industrial democracies, though we will draw examples from developing countries as well. The readings and discussions will challenge you think about questions such as: Where do parties come from; Why do parties change their positions; how can parties be successful without ever gaining office; and what explains parties' strategies more generally? We will be applying what we learn through a semester-long module on Germany, which is the analysis portion of the course.

Course Materials

There is one required book for the class which is available at the campus bookstore or on-line where you buy your favorite books. Please make sure you buy the 2nd edition. We will be reading this book after spring break. Otherwise, the required readings for the course are all available on Canvas.

David Farrell. 2011. *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

I encourage you to stay on top of election results and party developments throughout the semester. In our discussions, I'll draw on current events and I'd like you to be able to do the same. You may choose which on-line publications you'd like to read, but I'd recommend you

select from among *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, BBC, or *The Economist*. I'd also suggest becoming a regular NPR listener.

Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F (89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; below 59.5=F).

Party Position Assignment	10%
Electoral History Assignment	10%
Party Paper	15%
Government Formation Proposal/Presentation	30%
Midterm	25%
Participation	10%

*All work will be weighted according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

1) Germany Module: The assignments and papers are part of the Germany module in which we will be learning about the parties, the party and electoral system, and government formation in Germany. The assignments and party paper will be done individually. The government formation proposal and presentation will be done in groups. Due dates are more information are on the Germany Simulation hand out. The four assignments will be 65% of your grade.

2) Midterm. The midterm exam will be on March 3rd and will cover all of the material from the first half of the class. The exam will be a combination of identifications, short answer, and essay. The exam will be 25% of your final grade.

3) Participation. Please to class ready to participate. Participation means both asking and answering questions. Be engaged! Participation will be 10% of your final grade.

Class Policies

Class Expectations. Please come to class ready to actively learn. Come to class having read the material and prepared to participate. Make sure to review the discussion questions before class. There will be lots of opportunities to engage with the material and with each other. You may use your laptop or other device to take notes, but if you are using it for something other than taking notes (and distracting other students), I may not allow you to continue using it. Please turn your phone off while you are in class and do not text, check Facebook, Twitter, or look up information that is not relevant to class. **Please make sure to bring the readings with you to**

class (either in hard copy or on an electronic device). When class is held virtually, please have your camera on if you feel comfortable doing so. Any virtual classes will only be held synchronously.

Attendance. I will take attendance each time we meet within the first **10 minutes**. Should you arrive after 10 minutes, this will be counted as an absence. You are allowed **two absences** during the semester. You do not need to tell me why you will be absent or bring any sort of documentation to justify your absence. Each additional absence will result in a 1% deduction from your final grade unless it is excused. Should you need to be absent more than twice (e.g. Pitt team travel, Covid-related quarantine or isolation, please let me know ASAP).

Communication. Please make sure you check your **Pitt email** regularly. If you do not use your Pitt account, make sure you link your Pitt account to whichever email address you do use. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official Pitt email address. If you want to contact me or the TA, please use my Pitt addresses above and do not email us through Canvas. I will typically respond within a few hours (as long as it's not the middle of the night).

Canvas. All course readings (other than the book) and any materials handed out in class will be posted here. We will also post announcements, links, graphs/tables shown in class, and other useful information. So, check Canvas often!

Extensions and Alternate Dates. In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and not the day that the assignment is due. We will work together to come up with a solution.

Late Policy. A late assignment (without a pre-approved extension) will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, I will no longer accept it.

Grade Appeals. Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received.

Academic Integrity. Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated by the instructor, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. More information and the complete policy can be found at <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

Classroom Recording. To ensure free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance permission of the

instructor. Any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Accommodations. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), drsrecp@pitt.edu, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, please see <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

Health and Safety. In the midst of this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. While in class, this means you must wear a face covering. These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all community members. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in you not being permitted to attend class in person and could result in a Student Conduct violation. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu> and check your Pitt email for updates before each class.

Syllabus

W1a. Introduction and Preliminaries (Jan. 11)

No readings.

W1b. What Are Political Parties and What Do They Do? (Jan. 13)

James Madison, *Federalist 10*.

Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg. 2000. "Unthinkable Democracy: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. In *Parties without Partisans*, Dalton and Wattenberg, eds. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 5-10.

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Pgs. 24-31.

Joseph Schlesinger. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization." *The Journal of Politics*. 46: 369-400.

W2. Where Do Parties Come From? Party Formation and Development (Jan. 18 & 20)

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1990. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 91-138.

Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Ch. 8.

John Aldrich. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: Chicago UP. Ch. 1.

W3. Party Strategy and Decision-Making (Feb. 25 & 27)

Kaare Strøm and Wolfgang Müller. 1999. "Political Parties and Hard Choices." In *Policy, Office, Or Votes?: How Political Parties in Western Europe Make Hard Decisions*, Müller and Strøm, eds. New York: Cambridge UP. Pgs. 1-27.

Bonnie Meguid. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review*. 99.3: 347-359.

Tariq Thachil. 2014. "Elite Parties, Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India." *APSR*. 108.2: 454-477.

W4a. Germany Module: Introduction and Background (Feb. 1)

Mary Fulbrook. 2019. *A Concise History of Germany*. 3rd Ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 7-8.

W4b. Workshop: Party Positions—Manifestos and Experts (Feb. 3)

Chapel Hill Expert Survey. <https://www.chesdata.eu/>

Manifestos Project. <https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/>

***Additional Resources available on Canvas. Familiarize yourself with these before class.**

W5. Issue Ownership and Issue Positioning (Feb. 8 & 10)

Zeynep Somer-Topcu. 2015. "Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequence of the Broad Appeal Strategy in Europe." *AJPS*. 59.4: 841-854.

Jae-Jae Spoon, Sara B. Hobolt, Catherine E. de Vries. 2014. "Going Green: Explaining Issue Competition on the Environment." *European Journal of Political Research*. 53.2: 363-380.

Stefaan Walgrave, Jonas Lefevere, and Anke Tresch. 2012. "The Associative Dimension of Issue Ownership." *Public Opinion Quarterly*. 76.4: 771-782.

****Germany Tracker: Party Positions Assignment due Feb. 8**

W6. Do Parties Listen? Do They Respond? To Whom? (Feb. 15 & 17)

Lawrence Ezrow and Timothy Hellwig. 2014. "Responding to Voters or Responding to Markets? Political Parties and Public Opinion in an Era of Globalization." *International Studies Quarterly*. 58.4: 816-827.

Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2016. "Who Responds? Voters, Parties and Issue Attention." *British Journal of Political Science*. 46.3: 633-654.

Zachary Greene and Diana Z. O'Brien. 2016. "Diverse Parties, Diverse Agendas? Female Politicians and the Parliamentary Party's Role in Platform Formation." *European Journal of Political Research*. 55.3: 435-453.

****Germany Tracker: Electoral History Assignment Due Feb. 18 (note due on Friday @ 5pm)**

W7. Party Systems and Party System Change (Feb. 22 & 24)

Peter Mair. 2002. "Comparing Party Systems" in *Comparing Democracies 2*. Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi, and Pippa Norris, eds. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Pgs. 88-107.

Zack P. Grant and James Tilley. 2019. "Fertile Soil: Explaining Variation in the Success of Green Parties." *West European Politics*. 42:3, 495-516.

Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris. 2017. "Trump and the Populist Authoritarian Parties: *The Silent Revolution in Reverse*." *Perspectives on Politics*. 15.2: 443-454.

Roberta Rice and Donna Lee Van Cott. 2006. "The Emergence and Formation of Ethnic Parties in Latin America: A Sub-national Statistical Analysis." *Comparative Political Studies*. 39.6: 709-732.

**W8. March 1: Review/Catch-Up
March 3: Midterm**

W9. March 8 & 10: Spring Break

W10. Electoral Systems 1: What's in a Rule? (March 15 & 17)

Farrell, ch. 1-6

W11. Electoral Systems 2: Why (and How) Do They Matter? (March 22 & 24)

Farrell, ch. 7 & 10

Shaheen Mozaffar, James R. Scarritt, and Glen Galaich. 2003. "Electoral Institutions, Ethnopolitical Cleavages, and Party Systems in Africa's Emerging Democracies." *APSR*. 97.3: 379-390.

****Germany Tracker: Party Expert Paper Due March 22**

W12. Electoral Systems 3: Choosing and Changing the Rules of the Game (March 29 & 31)

Farrell, ch. 8-9

BBC. "Q&A: Electoral reform and proportional representation"
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8644480.stm

"With Different Rules, Some Big Elections in 2015 Would Have Had Very Different Outcomes."
The Economist. Dec. 28, 2015.

****Germany Tracker: Different Rules—Different Outcomes? (In-Class—March 31)**

Re- read Farrell, pgs. 94-108

W13. Parties in Government 1: Forming a Government (April 5 & 7)

William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder. 2018. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. 3rd. Ed. Pgs. 458-499.

Lanny Martin and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45.1: 33-50.

W14. Parties in Government 2: Who Governs and Why It Matters (April 12 & 14)

Miki Caul and Mark Gray. 2000. "From Platform Declarations to Policy Outcomes: Changing Party Profiles and Partisan Influence over Policy." In *Parties without Partisans*. Pgs. 208-237.

Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2020. "Helping or Hurting: How Governing as a Junior Coalition Partner Influences Electoral Outcomes." *Journal of Politics*. 82.4: 1231-1242.

Robert Thomson, Robert et al. 2017. "The Fulfillment of Parties' Election Pledges: A Comparative Study of the Impact of Power Sharing." *American Journal of Political Science*. 61.3: 527-542.

W15. Parties in Government 3: German Government Formation (April 19 & 21)

Student presentations and discussion of government formation proposals

*****Germany Tracker: Written proposals due April 22 at 5pm***