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## **Electoral Politics (POLS585)**

Fall 2016

Location: Tarbutton Hall 120A

Hours: Fridays 2:00-5:00pm

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### **Description**

This graduate seminar will survey recent theoretical and empirical work on electoral politics. We will examine models that study the role of elections as accountability-enhancing mechanisms and take a look at empirical evaluations of their predictions. We will also explore some of the challenges of electoral competition in developing democracies. The focus of this part of the course will be on electoral manipulation and on how such manipulation interferes with the accountability-enhancing role of elections.

### **Prerequisites**

Students must have completed the following courses:

- Regression Analysis (POLS 509)
- Introductory Game Theory (POLS 513)

### **Grading**

- 40% Presentations: Students will be responsible for presenting articles in class. The presentations should address the central question of the article, methodology, findings, and conclusions. The student should discuss related questions that remain unresolved and offer comments or informed criticisms.
- 15% Participation: Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the articles.
- 45% Research proposal: At the end of the semester students should write a detailed research proposal on any topic related to electoral politics. These proposals will be presented the last week of classes. Students should meet with me before fall break to discuss research ideas.

## Outline

Required readings appear with an asterisk.

- Introduction and Review of Econometric Tools (08/26/16)
  - Angrist and Pischke (2015) Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5.\*
  - Angrist and Pischke (2009) Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6.
- Accountability Theory I (09/16/16)
  - Alesina and Tabellini (2007)\*
  - Austen-Smith and Banks (1989)
  - Ferejohn (1986)\*
  - Maskin and Tirole (2004)
- Accountability Theory II (09/23/16)
  - Ashworth (2012)
  - Banks and Sundaram (1993)
  - Besley (2007) 3.1-3.4.5 and 3.5.\*
  - Fearon (1999)
- Electoral Incentives and Accountability (09/30/16)
  - Ferraz and Finan (2011)\*
  - Ferraz and Finan (2008)
  - Grossman (2014)\*
  - Lim (2013)
- Clientelism and Vote Buying (10/07/16)
  - Finan and Schechter (2012)
  - Larreguy, Marshall and Querubin (2016)\*
  - Stokes et al. (2013) Chapters 2-5
  - Rueda (2016)\*
  - Rundlett and Svolik (2016)
- Monitoring Elections (10/14/16)
  - Ichino and Schundeln (2012)\*
  - Kelley (2012) Chapters 3-5 and 7-8
  - Hyde (2007)
  - Ascencio and Rueda (2016)\*

- Media (10/21/16)
  - Chiang and Knight (2011)
  - Gentzkow, Shapiro and Sinkinson (2011)\*
  - Snyder and Strömberg (2010)\*
  - Lim, Snyder Jr and Stömberg (2012)
- Retrospecting Voting and Voter Rationality (10/28/16)
  - Ashworth, Bueno de Mesquita and Friedenberg (2015)
  - Huber, Hill and Lenz (2012)\*
  - Healy and Malhotra (2009)\*
- Campaigns and Persuasion (11/04/16)
  - DellaVigna and Kaplan (2007)
  - Enikolopov, Petrova and Zhuravskaya (2011)\*
  - Gerber et al. (2011)
  - Huber and Arceneaux (2007)
  - Kendall, Nannicini and Trebbi (2015)\*
- Electoral Institutions and Manipulation (11/11/16)
  - Ichino and Nathan (2013)\*
  - Pellicer and Wegner (2014)\*
  - Fjelde and Höglund (2014)
- Electoral Violence (11/18/16)
  - Acemoglu, Robinson and Santos (2013)\*
  - Blattman (2009)\*
  - Fafchamps and Vicente (2013)
  - Robinson and Torvik (2009)
- Incumbency Advantages and Disadvantages (12/02/16)
  - Fowler and Hall (2014)
  - Gordon and Landa (2009)
  - Klasnja (2015)\*
  - Hirano and Snyder (2009)\*
- Students' Presentations (12/09/16)

## References

- Acemoglu, Daron, James A. Robinson and Rafael Santos. 2013. “The Monopoly of Violence: Evidence From Colombia.” *Journal of the European Economic Association* 11:5–44.
- Alesina, Alberto and Guido Tabellini. 2007. “Bureaucrats or Politicians? Part I: A Single Policy Task.” *The American Economic Review* 97:169–179.
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- Ascencio, Sergio and Miguel R. Rueda. 2016. “Poll Watchers, Polling Stations, and Electoral Manipulation.” Unpublished Manuscript. Emory University.
- Ashworth, Scott. 2012. “Electoral Accountability: Recent Theoretical and Empirical Work.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 15:183–201.
- Ashworth, Scott, Ethan Bueno de Mesquita and Amanda Friedenberg. 2015. “Learning About Voter Rationality.” Unpublished manuscript. Harris School of Public Policy. University of Chicago.
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- Banks, Jeffrey and Rangarajan K. Sundaram. 1993. Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard in a Repeated Elections Model. In *Political Economy: Institutions, Competition, and Representation*, ed. William A. Barnett, Melvin J. Hinich and Norman J. Schofield. New York: NY: Cambridge University Press.
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