COURSE DETAIL

COMPARATIVE PARTY SYSTEMS
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Leiden University College
Program(s) Leiden University College
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science
UCEAP Course Number 106
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title COMPARATIVE PARTY SYSTEMS
UCEAP Transcript Title COMP PARTY SYSTEMS
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
Understanding the functioning of democratic and representative politics requires knowledge of political parties and party systems. Parties represent the main vehicles for the aggregation of societal interests and they remain at the core of the political process, from elections to government formation and the generation of policy. Parties structure political competition among voters, party activists, and party elites and they are consequential for the political interactions within the executive-legislative arena and beyond. This course presents students with a systematic overview of political parties and party systems, in a comparative framework. The first weeks of the course cover important questions related to the origins and organization of political parties, party types, and ideological labels. The class then centers on party systems – the dimensions along which they differ and the factors driving party system change. Throughout the class, the focus of the material covers all stages of the political process at which parties operate, including the electoral and government domains. A major component of the course also links distinct institutional features with party systems characteristics. For example, it considers at length the impact of electoral rules on the number of political parties in a given polity. The theoretical material is also empirically grounded, with a focus on both advanced democracies and newly democratic countries. A special section is devoted to the discussion of party politics at the level of the European Union.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title
COMPARATIVE PARTY SYSTEMS

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
LUC The Hague- Level 2

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Governance, Economics and Development
Course Last Reviewed

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