COURSE DETAIL

POLITICS OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Country
France

Host Institution
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)
Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science

UCEAP Course Number
116

UCEAP Course Suffix
P

UCEAP Official Title
POLITICS OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

UCEAP Transcript Title
POL/ELECTORAL SYST

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the goals institutional actors are pursuing when they design and reform an electoral system. Conceptual dimensions and criteria for categorizing and comparing electoral systems are discussed. Specific national cases are studied to assess the impact of electoral laws on party systems, legislator behavior, and interbranch relations. After completing a long series of case studies, a comparative perspective is adopted to discuss recent scholarly research in this field. Electoral systems are made up of rules that govern a variety of issues related to how elections work, including rules about how candidates get access to the ballot; the extent to which voters can disturb the ballot presented to them; to what level votes will be pooled before seats are awarded; whether voters can select individual candidates or just party banners; how seats are allocated within a district; whether certain thresholds must be met etc. Therefore, electoral rules incentivize certain behaviors and are strategy oriented. Finally, both aspects of intraparty and interparty politics are explored.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DDRO 25A62

Host Institution Course Title
POLITICS OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/en/?202520/291233

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department
Law

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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