POLITICAL COMPETITION

Syllabus

**Lecturer**  
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Office Hours: TBA

**Course**  
LPS PPE 260-920  
Political Competition  
Location: TBA

**Description**  
Political competition is an important topic to study and understand because it may have consequences for a country, its international relations and its performance. The aim of the course is to introduce the students to what is political competition and its impact on economics. The course will also provide examples of how political competition can be applied in various situations, such as income distribution, welfare state, political success and the absence of a socialist party in the US. During the course the theory explained will be accompanied by examples and articles that will help to clarify the theory.

**Recommended Readings**  
The recommended readings for this course are:

These books can be used as recommended readings to integrate the lectures notes. There is no single textbook I assign. During the course I will refer to some of these references depending on the topic.

**Course Policies**  
- **Academic integrity**: any student found in violation of academic integrity will receive no credit for the assessment in question. It will enter as a ‘0’ in the gradebook.
• **Exam attendance**: attendance is mandatory for all exams. A missed exam will enter a ‘0’ in the gradebook. Exceptions apply in accordance with PPE policies.

**Attendance**
Attendance will enter your mark through participation. Being physically present but totally disengaged will earn you no more credit than being physically absent.

**Assessment and Marks**
The mark for this course will be allocated as follows:
Finale grade= 10% Participation, 30% Readings and problem sets, 30% Midterm exam, 30%
Final exam.
• Participation: attendance, and contributions in class
• Readings and Problem Sets: they will be posted on the course site and will be due at the start of the class on the posted date
• Midterm: there will be a 1.5 hours exam on **July, 14**
• Final: there will be a two hours exam on the last day of class on **August, 4**

**Additional Notes**
The syllabus is subject to changes and I may update it during the course.

**Course Topics**
**Lecture 1: Introduction, Political Competition in theory and practice**
In the first lecture of the course the concept of political competition is introduced and the student will get familiar with concepts and measurement of political competition.

**Lecture 2: Voting**
In this lecture we study the importance of voting.

**Lecture 3: Political Competition and Lobbying**
In this lecture we study the influence of lobbies and pressures on political competition.

**Lecture 4: Political Regime, Electoral System and Economic Policy**
In this lecture the student will learn about the interaction between the role of electoral rules and the political regime for economic policy.

**Lecture 5: Mid Term Exam**

**Lecture 6: Culture, Political Competition and the Transmission of Political Values**
During this lecture we will study the relation between culture and political competition. The student will learn about the interaction between culture and political competition and its consequences.
Lecture 7: Political Competition and Redistribution

In this lecture we will study the implications of political competition for redistribution policies across a comparative perspective. Special attention is given to differences between the United States and Europe.

Lecture 8: Welfare and redistributive policies: labor market regulations and unemployment benefits

In this lecture the students will study the relation between welfare, cultural values, unemployment benefits and labor market regulation.

Lecture 9: Political competition and Economic Performance

In this lecture the student will learn how political competition may have an impact on economic performance. The focus will be on both the United States and international economies.

Lecture 10: Cultural Values, Political Competition and Economics

In this lecture the student will learn how cultural values may be important for good governance and progress in a country. Examples of countries selected from different continents will be provided to explain how the interplay of culture, economics and politics may give rise to different outcomes and explain failure or success.

Lecture 11: Final Exam