ADM 3103 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

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Course description:

This course is based on the analysis of the main electoral systems and their effects. The role played by the electoral systems in political representation will be examined with an emphasis on the Turkish context in the latter parts of the course.

The variety of electoral systems could not be examined without a comparative perspective. Thus the course will have a detailed look at the different voting systems in use throughout the world.

Electoral systems consist of rules that regulate a range of issues related to the way elections are held. The issues in question, which also have certain effects on inter-party and intra-party politics, are as follows:

- How are candidates presented on the ballot paper?
- To what extent can voters make changes on the ballot paper?
- How many votes does each member of the electorate cast? Do voters have the option to choose between the candidates of the same party or they just vote for closed party lists?
- How are seats allocated in a district?
- Is there any threshold that needs to be cleared before a seat is won or a party enters the parliament?

Electoral system changes during the constitutional period of Ottoman Empire, single-party regime and multi-party era in Turkey, along with their political consequences, will be dealt with in the last four weeks of the course.

**Assessment:**

40% midterm exam

60% final exam

**Course outline:**

**Week One**

**Introduction**

**Week Two**

**Background: Theories of representation, legitimacy, and the extension of suffrage**


ADLER, Philip J. and POUWELS, Randall L., World Civilizations (Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006), Ch. 40.

Week Three

Introducing majoritarian electoral systems


Week Four

Electoral systems in USA, UK and France


Week Five

Introducing Proportional Representation (PR)


Week Six

Varieties of PR systems


Week Seven

Emergence of Mixed-Member Systems: Germany and others


**Week Eight**

**Are Mixed-Member Systems the Best Solution?**


**Week Nine**

**The Effective Number of Parties (ENP), disproportionality, and the relation between the electoral system and the party system: Duverger’s Law and the post-Duvergerian debate**


COLOMER, Josep, ‘It’s parties that choose electoral systems (or, Duverger’s Laws upside down)’, *Political Studies*, 2005, Vol. 53.


**Week Ten**

**New Institutionalist theories of electoral reform**


**Week Eleven**

**Electoral systems in Turkey I**


**Week Twelve**

**Electoral systems in Turkey II**


**Week Thirteen**

**Electoral systems in Turkey III**


**Week Fourteen**

**Electoral systems in Turkey IV**


Recommended reading: TACHAU, Frank, ‘An Overview of Electoral Behavior: Toward Protest or Consolidation of Democracy’ in Sabri Sayarı and Yılmaz Esmer (eds.), *Politics,

Additional reading

