

PS023 Democracy & Transition in Comparative Studies

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	Democracy & Transition in Comparative Studies
Unit code	PS023
Credit rating	15
Level	MA
Contact hours	21
Pre-requisite units	Philosophy of Politics, International Relations: Evolution & Theory, Advanced Policy Analysis, International History & Geography
Co-requisite units	
School responsible	Moscow School of Social & Economic Science (Faculty of Political Sciences)
Member of staff responsible	Nikita Savin

2. AIMS

The overall aim of this course unit is to provide understanding of changes in domestic politics in the context of elections, party competition, institutional design, political regime's dynamics. With regard of this core aim some special tasks are to be formulated:

- To introduce fundamental concepts and approaches to studying elections, party systems, institutional design and political transitions;
- To develop the ability to describe and analyze political dynamics in electoral preferences and party system.
- To promote a reflection on process of political transition, changes in political regimes and constitutional design

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

Content

1. Elections: a Framework for Analysis.
 - Ecological and Psychological Approaches.
 - Public Choice Approaches.
2. Electoral design and electoral fraud.
3. Party Systems and Voter Alignments.
 - Western democracies.
 - Post-Soviet and Post-Communist countries.
4. Political transition and constitutional design.
5. Hybrid Regimes and Authoritarian regimes

Core Reading

- Taylor P. J., Johnson R. J. Geography of Elections. – London, Penguin, 1979.
- Mueller D. Public Choice III. – Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2003
- Tullock G. On Voting: A Public Choice Approach. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2001.
- Taagepera R., Shugart M. S. Seats and Votes: The Effects of Determination of Electoral

Systems. – New Heaven: Yale University Press 1989.

- Linz J., Stepan A. Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America and Post-Communist Europe. - Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1996.

-Bodin P.-A. Power and Legitimacy – Challenges from Russia. L: Routledge, 2013

-White S. Developments in Central and East European Politics. L: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	<i>Students should be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - know fundamental concepts and approaches to studying elections, party systems, institutional design and political transitions; - understand political dynamics in electoral preferences and party system; - understand process of political transition, changes in political regimes and constitutional design
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop the ability to describe and analyze political dynamics in electoral preferences; - develop the ability to describe and analyze political dynamics in party system; - promote a reflection on process of political transition, changes in political regimes and constitutional design
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resolve problems: identify the features of problem, including aspects of risk and select approaches and solutions; - identify desired communication outcomes; enhance understanding and engagement by academic and professional audiences; - research independently, by identifying and managing library and information resources including online, correctly citing, acknowledging and referencing sources; - undertake effectively independent and self-managed learning;
Transferable skills and personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective written and oral communication; - reflect and write analytically; - engage in scientific discussion and deliver creative and original thought; - find information and use information technology (including e-library resources) - exercise self-reliance skills and develop independent learning ability; - manage time and work to deadlines.

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

- Contact hours: lectures (70%) and tutorials (30%).
- Private assignment preparation
- Directed reading (paper and electronic texts)
- Essay writing

6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
Essay	3500 words	80%
Exam	1000 words	20%