**POLI 138D: How to Steal an Election**

Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 – 12:20  
Robinson Building Complex (IRPS) 3202

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Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9:30 a.m. Other times to meet can be arranged upon request.

**Overview:**

This course seeks to introduce students to the politics of electoral fraud in the contemporary world. It covers topics such as the logic of elections in authoritarian states, vote buying, electoral violence, institutional design and rigging, and election monitoring.

The Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza once said to his electoral opponent who claimed to have defeated him at the polls: “You may have won the voting, but I won the counting.”

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

The course will have a midterm (30%), final (30%), reading quizzes (30%), and in-class discussion (10%)

- **Exams** will be comprised mainly of short answers.  
- **Reading Quizzes** occur frequently. Read the assignment before the day on which they are to be discussed. You may drop two quizzes without reason – use this power judiciously. There are no make-up quizzes.  
- **Discussion** is graded on your command of the reading material and your presentation of ideas.

**Nota Bene:** This course focuses heavily on in-class activities. If you prefer courses which require less attendance and allow you to “catch up” with the readings, do not take this course.

**POLI 138D Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments**

**October 1**


October 3


Barbara Geddes “Why Parties and Elections in Authoritarian Regimes?” Department of Political Science UCLA, manuscript March 2006.

October 8

Alberto Simpser “Cheating Big: On the Logic of Electoral Corruption in Developing Countries” manuscript April 27, 2008.


October 10

Kai Ostwald “How to Win a Lost Election: Malapportionment and Malaysia’s 2013 General Election” manuscript.


October 15


Andy Harris “Bring Out Your Dead!” How the Accumulation of Dead Voters Affects the Quality of Electoral Rolls in Kenya” manuscript 2013.


October 17


October 22


October 24


“In Philadelphia, it's get out the money: Candidates usually pay their foot soldiers -- a tradition that could cost Obama support” Los Angeles Times, April 11, 2008.


October 29 Midterm

October 31

Eric Kramon “Vote Buying and Turnout in Kenya’s 2002 Elections” manuscript.


November 5


November 7

Javier Auyero “From the client's point(s) of view": How poor people perceive and evaluate political clientelism” Theory and Society 28: 297-334, 1999.


November 12

Paul Collier and Pedro C. Vicente “Votes and Violence: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Nigeria” manuscript, October 2010.


November 14


November 19


Eric Bjornlund Chapter 4 “From Non-Governmental to Governmental Organizations.”

November 21

Eric Bjornlund Chapter 5 “Jimmy Carter”, and Eric Bjornlund Chapter 11 “Domestic Monitoring”

November 26

No class.

December 3


December 5


Danielle Jung, Karen Ferree, Robert Dowd, and Clark Gibson “Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Electoral Inking on Turnout in a Fragile Democracy” manuscript.

Final test on designated date