POLI 138D: How to Steal an Election

Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30 – 10:50
Robinson Building Complex (IRPS) 3201

Professor Clark Gibson
Office: Social Science Building 386
Telephone: 822-5140
E-Mail: cegibson@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: SSB 332, Tuesday 1-3 p.m.

Teaching assistant:
Alex Verink
E-mail: averink@ucsd.edu

Overview:
Many former democracies are turning into “electoral dictatorships.”
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

January 8


January 13


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

January 15

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


January 20

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


January 22

Alberto Diaz-Cayeros and Beatriz Magaloni “Party Dominance and the Logic of Electoral Design in Mexico’s Transition to Democracy” 2001 *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 13(3): 271–293.

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


January 27


January 29


February 3


“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.

http://articles.latimes.com/2008/apr/11/nation/na-streetmoney1


February 5  Midterm

February 10

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


February 12


February 17

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.


February 19

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


**February 24**


**February 26**


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

**March 3**

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

**March 5**


**March 10**

Michael Callen, James Long, Danielle Jung and Clark Gibson “Reducing Electoral Fraud with Information and Communications Technology” under submission *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

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

**March 12**

TBA

**Final exam on designated date**

Students are expected to follow UCSD’s Student Conduct Code:

[https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/_organizations/student-conduct/regulations/22.00.html](https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/_organizations/student-conduct/regulations/22.00.html)