



University
of Victoria

POLI 319 Issues in Comparative Politics: “Political Parties and Elections”

Instructor Spring 2023: Dr. Alex Rivard

Course delivery: This course will be delivered online in a synchronous format.

Course description:

Elections are core aspects of democratic life. They allow for citizens to voice their approval or disapproval, to select their legislator, and, in some instances, to vote directly for their head of state/head of government. This course, *Political Parties and Elections*, looks at how political parties compete in elections and how institutions (e.g., the electoral system, federalism, and national diversity) structure party competition. This course looks beyond the national level and also looks at provincial and municipal elections. Drawing on comparative cases like Canada, Spain, and the UK, we also ask “What is an election?” and consider candidate nomination, primaries, and leadership selection.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Identify different types of elections and how they differ
- Develop a knowledge of how institutions affect party success
- Identify key challenges various actors, including governments, face in electoral politics
- Participate in informed discussions about key issues in electoral politics

Topics may include:

Electoral systems
National and provincial elections
Political parties
Federalism

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.