Parties and Elections in Developing Countries
Political Science, G8437
Columbia University, Fall 2015

Professor Kimuli Kasara
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 1-3pm
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Time: Wednesday, 10:10-12:00.
Location: 711 IAB

Course Description

This course explores research on individual and organizational determinants of candidate selection, accountability, and representation in new and developing democracies. This course focuses on four questions: 1) How do people decide which candidates to vote for? 2) What purpose do political parties serve in new or poor democracies? 2) When will parties campaign on programmatic platforms? 3) How do politicians use vote buying and patronage to win elections? 4) Under what circumstances will politicians successfully use violence and economic threats to win elections?

Requirements

- **Class participation** – 20% of the final grade for the class.

- **Referee reports** - *One due on or before October 27th and one due after – 10% each*
  Each student will submit two referee reports. The reports should start with a summary of the article followed by a justification of your recommendation (publish, revise and resubmit, or reject). The reports should include a detailed discussion of the rigor and plausibility of the theory advanced and/or an evaluation of the quality of the evidence provided. Because constructive criticism is an important part of our profession, these reports ought to include suggestions on how the article can be improved. Reports should include a discussion of whether the article contributes to debates in a research area of general interest. Reports should be 1.5 to 2 single-spaced pages long and students will post them on Courseworks by 9am on the day the article is being discussed in class.

- **Presentation of research proposal** – 20%
  Each student will make a presentation near the end of the semester describing a proposed research project.

- **Research Paper (or Final Exam)** – 40%
  Students in the PhD program must write a research paper based on the presentation. All other students may choose to either write the research paper or take a take-home final exam. Students choosing to write the final paper who desire an incomplete will receive one that expires on February 1, 2016 (the date on which all final research papers are due).
COURSE OUTLINE

In most cases, readings for which there are no links will be posted in the “Class Files” section of Courseworks.

Session 1 (09/09): Introduction

Session 2 (16/09): Voting Behavior: Ethnic Voting


Session 3 (23/09): Voting Behavior: Economic Interests


Session 5 (07/10): Voting Behavior: Party Identification


Session 6 (14/10): Voting Behavior: Turnout


Session 7 (21/10): Parties: Organization and Candidate Selection


Session 8 (28/10): Parties: The Personal Vote


**Session 9 (04/11): Voters & Parties: Programmatic Politics**


**Session 10 (11/11): Voters & Parties: Politically Targeted Spending**


Corstange, Daniel. *The Price of a Vote in the Middle East*. Forthcoming, Chapters 1-2

**Session 11 (18/11): Voters & Parties: Vote Buying**


**Session 12 (25/11): No Class**

**Session 13 (02/11): Voters & Parties: Violence and Intimidation**


Mares, Isabela, and Boliang Zhu. "The Production of Electoral Intimidation: Economic and Political Incentives." *Comparative Politics* Forthcoming


**Session 14 (09/11): Presentation of Research Projects**