**SUFFRAGE POLITICS: FROM PAST TO PRESENT**

**Dr Mona Morgan-Collins**

This module provides a critical survey of works within comparative politics that seeks to explain the origins and developments of suffrage expansion. This module will encourage students to critically evaluate existing research in the sub-field and to draw clear links between suffrage debates in the past and today. Specifically, the module covers topics that address causes and consequences of various types of suffrage reforms. Indicative questions addressed on the course include: Why do elites decide to give up power and broaden the franchise to the masses? How do polities decide who has the right to vote? Why did men enfranchise women? Why did Whites manipulate voting rights to exclude Blacks from the vote in the past and today? Why did the voting age decrease over the last century? Who support the expansion of voting rights to 16 year olds and why? What are the policy consequences of suffrage reforms? Are preferences of newly enfranchised groups better represented upon their formal inclusion in the voting public? How can we explain that some enfranchised groups are not represented despite their access to the polling booth?

**Indicative readings:**

* Teele, D. L. (2018). How the West Was Won: Competition, Mobilization, and Women’s Enfranchisement in the United States. The Journal of Politics, 80(2), 442-461.
* Kroth, Verena, Valentino Larcinese, and Joachim Wehner. 2016. “A Better Life for All? Democratization and Electrification in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” The Journal of Politics 78(3): 774–791.
* White, A. (2019). Misdemeanor Disenfranchisement? The Demobilizing Effects of Brief Jail Spells on Potential Voters. American Political Science Review, 113(2), 311-324.
* Morgan-Collins, Mona. forth.  The Electoral Impact of Newly Enfranchised Groups: The Case of Women’s Suffrage in the United States. Journal of Politics.
* Bechtel, M. M., Hangartner, D., & Schmid, L. (2016). Does compulsory voting increase support for leftist policy?. American Journal of Political Science, 60(3), 752-767.
* Miller, Grant. "Women's suffrage, political responsiveness, and child survival in American history." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 123.3 (2008): 1287-1327.

**Notes:**

Formative assessment will come in the form of a student conferences during Michaelmas term that will require each student to present the proposal for the summative project (4-5 slides) and provide discussant comments for another student (5 minutes)

Summative assessment will come in the form of a 3500 word project