



*Academic Year 2016-2017*

## **Issues on European Elites and Democracy**

### **Instructors:**

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**Goals:** This module aims to discuss the recent literature concerning the crisis of representative democracy in Europe (and in a broader context) focusing in particular the role of political elites. Three topics in particular will be covered:

- the analysis of the political and social profile of contemporary ruling elite in Europe,
- the problems of selection of the elite and the accountability of the leaders,
- the increasing variance among contemporary party elites in the *European Elite System*.

After two seminars dedicated to these aspects, the second part of the module consists of a focus on the difficult processes of democratization in the Mediterranean area and a reflection on the perception of the “decline” of democratic quality around the world.

### **Outline**

#### **Seminar 1 (Luca Verzichelli)**

*Elite role and elites structure. Ministerial and representative Elites in Europe*

Readings:

- Cotta, M. and L. Verzichelli, *The development of political elites in Europe*, in J. Magone (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, London, Routledge, 2014, pp. 421-438.
- H. Best and L. Vogel, *The sociology of legislators and legislatures*, in *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, 2014.

#### **Seminar 2 (Luca Verzichelli)**

*Parties, Elites, leaders and the crisis of representative democracy in Europe*

Readings:

- P. Mair, *Ruling the Void*, London, Verso, 2013 chapters 1-3
- B. Manin, *The principles of Representative democracy*, CUP, 1997, Chapter 6
- S. Tormey, *The end of Representative Democracy*, 2015, Chapter 3.

### **Seminar 3 (Gianni Del Panta)**

*Democratization and failure at the European Border. Case studies from the Mediterranean area*

Readings:

- Hinnebusch, R. H. (2015). "Introduction: Understanding the Consequences of the Arab Uprisings – starting points and divergent trajectories". *Democratization*. 22(2): 205-217.
- Brownlee, J., T. Masoud and A. Reynolds (2013). "Why the Modest Harvest?". *Journal of Democracy*. 24(4): 29-44.

### **Seminar 4 (Gianni del Panta)**

*A decline of democracy? A world view*

Readings:

- Plattner, M. F. (2014). "The End of the Transitions Era?". *The Journal of Democracy*. 25(3): 5-16.
- Foa, R. S. and Y. Mounk (2017). "The Signs of Deconsolidation". *The Journal of Democracy*. 28(1): 5-15.