

Workshop Title: Party System Development and Change

Workshop Leader: Kaitlin Alper

Duration: 4 hours

Session 1: Introductions and Intro to Political Parties (10 minutes)

- Welcome and brief ice-breaking activity
- Brief discussion of what students know about political parties

Session 2: Parties and Party Systems (30 minutes)

- Definition and key functions of political parties
- Definition and types of historical party families
- Factors influencing party system development

Session 3: Party System Evolution in the Globalization Era (20 minutes)

- How globalization and European integration impact political parties
- Types of new party families
- Discussion of how this might 'shake up' party systems and why

Session 4: Consequences of Different Party Systems (10 minutes)

- Discussion of the impact of party systems on governance
- Brief exploration of strengths and weaknesses

Session 5: Coalition Formation Simulation Introduction (10 minutes)

- Explanation of the coalition formation simulation.
- Distribution of roles and groups, short discussion

Dinner Break (30 minutes)

Session 6: Simulation: Forming Coalition Governments 1 (55 minutes)

- Students work in groups, representing different political parties.
- Given party system configurations and vote shares, students negotiate and form coalition governments.
- Facilitators guide the simulation.

Session 7: Introduction to Simulation 2 (5 minutes)

- Explanation of changes in the new election including new key issues
- Distribution of new vote shares to groups

Session 8: Simulation: Forming Coalition Governments 2 (55 minutes)

- Students work in groups, representing different political parties.
- Given party system configurations and vote shares, students negotiate and form coalition governments.
- Facilitators guide the simulation.

Session 9: Debrief, Discussion and Conclusion (15 minutes)

- Reflection on the coalition formation exercise.
 - Discussion of challenges, compromises, and strategies.
 - Recap of key takeaways from the workshop
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Sessions 6 and 8: Simulation: Forming Coalition Governments (55 minutes)

Objective: In this simulation exercise, students will take on the roles of different political parties and work together to form coalition governments. They will apply their knowledge of political parties, party systems, and the impact of globalization on party dynamics to navigate the complexities of coalition politics.

Simulation Setup:

1. **Fictional Country:** The workshop will introduce a fictional country, Genovia, with a unique political landscape, including the number of seats in the parliament, recent election results, and key issues facing the country.
2. **Role Assignment:** Participants will be divided into groups, with each group representing a different fictional political party. Each party will have a specific history, ideology, and policy priorities.

Simulation Steps:

1. **Initial Party Positions (5-10 minutes):** Each group will familiarize itself with its party's platform, ideology, and policy priorities. They will also assess their party's relative strength based on recent election results.
2. **Negotiation (35-40 minutes):** Groups will engage in negotiations with other parties to form coalition governments. They will need to consider their policy goals, potential partners, and the minimum number of seats required for a majority.
3. **Coalition Building (10 minutes):** Once negotiations are complete, groups will formally announce their coalitions and present the agreed-upon policy platform.

Facilitator's Role:

- Facilitators will guide and moderate the negotiations, ensuring that students consider various factors like policy alignment, party strength, and potential compromises.
- They will encourage critical thinking and discussion among participants.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding the complexities of coalition politics.
- Appreciating the importance of compromise and negotiation in forming governments.
- Applying knowledge of political parties and party systems in a practical context.
- Analyzing the impact of different factors on coalition success.

This simulation exercise will provide students with a hands-on experience of the challenges and decision-making processes involved in forming coalition governments, allowing them to apply the concepts learned during the workshop and gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics of modern democracies.
