



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

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# Political Behaviour

PPLE 2017-2018

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. General Information**

Course number	3813POBPV
Credits in EC	6
Semester, period	Semester 2, Block 5
Lecturer(s)	Dr. Mike Medeiros

### **1.2. Content of the course**

The course presents an overview of major theoretical approaches and empirical research in the field of political behaviour. It focuses on psychological, sociological and institutional factors that affect individuals' political attitudes and behaviour. The course explores the development of political beliefs, attitudes, and actions. It also looks at the implications of individuals' political choices for collective outcomes, notably in terms of policy-making. The course will, for example, explore the following questions: Why do individuals abstain from voting? Why do individuals vote the way that they do? What motivates individuals to protest political decisions? Why do politicians concentrate on certain issues? Why do some politicians follow the party line more than others?

The course will allow for a better understanding of the outcome in recent elections, and referendums, across the West, as well as the growing challenges that political alienation poses to democracy.

### **1.3. Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will learn about the causes and consequences of political behaviour among citizens and elites.
2. The student will broaden their political knowledge and better understand political phenomena through the exposure of a variety of political science approaches and theories.
3. The student will acquire a general comprehension of why individuals hold certain political attitudes as well as why they commit the political actions that they do.

### **1.4. Timetable**

Days and times of both lectures and tutorials.

Information about the timetable can also be found on: <https://rooster.uva.nl/schedule>

### **1.5. Literature / readings**

Dalton, R.J. 2013. Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies. 6<sup>th</sup> Editions. CQ Press. Available at the Athenaeum Boekhandel.

Extensive use will also be made of online journal resources via Blackboard or the digital library.

Please refer to the course outline.

### 1.6. Weekly schedule

Week and meeting		Content	Literature
Week 1	3 April	Lecture 1	Dalton - Chapter 1
		Tutorial 1	Presentation of assignments and discussion of expectations Course manual
	4 April	Lecture 2	<u>No Lecture</u>
	5 April	Tutorial 2	The barriers of history and culture? Putnam - What makes democracy work? Clague et al. - Determinants of lasting democracy in poor countries.
Week 2	10 April	Lecture 3	Conflicts Sherif - Experiments in group conflict. Posen - The security dilemma and ethnic conflict.
		Tutorial 3	Survey preparation 1 Çelebi et al. - Support for Kurdish language Rights in Turkey: The roles of ethnic group, group identifications, contact, and intergroup perceptions. Sniderman et al. - Political culture and the problem of double standards: Mass and elite attitudes toward language rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
	11 April	Lecture 4	Political opinions 1 Dalton - Chapters 2 & 5
	12 April	Tutorial 4	Changing political opinions Page et al. - What moves public opinion? Baunach - Changing same-sex marriage attitudes in America from 1988 through 2010.
Week 3	17 April	Lecture 5	Political opinions 2 Dalton - Chapter 6
		Tutorial 5	Survey preparation 2 <u>No readings</u>
	18 April	Lecture 6	Voting 1 Baker et al. - Social context and campaign volatility in new democracies: Networks and neighborhoods in Brazil's 2002 elections.
	19 April	Tutorial 6	Voting with no partisan cues Higley & McAllister - Elite division and voter confusion: Australia's republic referendum in 1999. Wright - Charles Adrian and the study of nonpartisan elections.
	23 April	<b>Deadline assignment #1</b>	
Week 4	24 April	Lecture 7	Participation 1 Dalton - Chapter 3
		Tutorial 7	Experiment preparation 1 Gerber et al. - Social pressure and voter turnout: Evidence from a large-scale field experiment. Mahéo - Information campaigns and (under)privileged citizens: An experiment on the differential effects of a voting advice application.

	25 April	Lecture 8	Participation 2 Guest lecturer: Representative from Élections Québec	Blais - What affects voter turnout?
	26 April	Tutorial 8	How to enhance political participation?	Dalton - Chapter 4
Week 5	8 May	Lecture 9	Partisanship 1	Dalton - Chapter 8
		Tutorial 9	Experiment preparation 2	No reading. Discussion.
	9 May	Lecture 10	Partisanship 2	Dalton - Chapter 9
	10 May	Tutorial 10	Ascension Day / Hemelvaartsdag	<u>No Lecture</u>
	14 May	<b>Deadline assignment #2</b>		
Week 6	15 May	Lecture 11	Political parties	Dalton - Chapter 7
		Tutorial 11	Interview preparation 1	Franceschet & Piscopo - Gender quotas and women's substantive representation: Lessons from Argentina.
	16 May	Lecture 12	Legislative behaviour 1 Guest Lecturer: Hon. Thomas Mulcair, M.P.	Dalton - Chapter 11
	17 May	Tutorial 12	Representation	Saalfeld & Kyriakopoulou - Presence and behaviour: Black and minority ethnic MPs in the British House of Commons.
Week 7	22 May	Lecture 13	Voting 2	Dalton - Chapter 10
		Tutorial 13	Interview preparation 2	No reading. Discussion.
	23 May	Lecture 14	Democratic process	Dalton - Chapter 12
	24 May	Tutorial 14	Course review (Preparation for exam)	Review Course (Preparation for exam)
	25 May	<b>Deadline assignment #3</b>		
Week 8	28 May	<b>Final Exam</b>		

## 2.0. Assessment

Class Assignments (3x15%), Final Exam (45%), and Class Participation (10%).

1. Survey to measure attitudes towards multilingualism in the Netherlands.
2. Experiment to help explain why people vote or abstain.
3. Semi-structured interview questionnaire to investigate how politicians' represent their constituents.

The student will produce three short assignments. The first assignment consists of designing a survey and must be submitted by **23 April**, the second assignment consists of designing an experiment and must be submitted by **14 May**; and the third assignment consists of designing a questionnaire for a semi-structured interview and must be submitted by **25 May**. The student must present what they are precisely trying to study with each assignment and justify, while linking it to the themes that will be discussed in this course, how their assignment permits them to do so. Each assignment must be submitted via Blackboard. No late assignments will be accepted. Further details will be provided in class and in the tutorials.

A final exam will be held on **28 May**. The exam will consist of a multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay question. The exam will be based on the content covered throughout the entire course (the lectures as well as all readings assigned in both lectures and tutorials).

Finally, the student's participation will be evaluated in each tutorial based on presence, including punctuality, as well as the quality of their comments and questions.

### 2.1. Examination Scheme

Component	Deadline/date	Weight	Minimum grade	Compensable	Resit
Participation	—	10%	No	No	No
Writing assignment 1	23 April	15%	No	Yes	No
Writing assignment 2	14 May	15%	No	Yes	No
Writing assignment 3	25 May	15%	No	Yes	No
Final exam	28 May	45%	5.5	No	Yes
Resit	2 July	45%	5.5	No	No

Ad 1 In order to complete the course, the grade for the final exam should be 5.5 or higher.

Ad2 In order to complete the course, the total average should be 5.5 or higher.

## 3. Attendance & Responsibilities

### 3.1 Attendance

The bachelor PPLE presupposes that all students will be present in class. All students may miss **two** tutorial meetings per course, regardless of the reason. Missing three classes **will lead** to exclusion from the course.

### 3.2 Late policy

Tardiness will be punished consistently. When the door to the room has been closed, the tutorial meeting has started. All students coming into the classroom after the door has been closed (whether it is 5 or 20 minutes after) will be noted as 'late'. **Being late three times leads to one full absence.**

### 3.3 Deadlines

In accordance with the PPLE Teaching and Examinations regulation (OER) all assignments that are handed in after the respective deadlines **are to be graded as '1'**.

#### **4. Fraud and Plagiarism**

For all written assignments, a Turnitin assignment is made on Blackboard. Turnitin is a tool that can detect work that is copied. All suspected cases of fraud and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Examinations Board. This course uses the 'Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students'. For more information, see <http://student.uva.nl/pple/shared/studentensites/uva-studentensite/en/az/plagiarism-and-fraud/plagiarism-and-fraud.html?origin=bg5ujKpfRM6MmU9azVVbsw>

#### **5. More information**

This course has a blackboard website. Here you can find the necessary information like the group information of your tutorials, the assignments. You are expected to look at this website regularly, because any updates will be communicated through blackboard.

You are registered for this course via SIS. This means that you are automatically registered for exams that are part of this course. For more information about SIS visit: [www.student.uva.nl/sis](http://www.student.uva.nl/sis) .

#### **6. Contact information**

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