



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Political Behaviour

PPLE 2018-2019

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.
4. The student will acquire an in-depth knowledge of some of the empirical methods used to study political behaviour.

1.4. Timetable

Information about the timetable can 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. 6th Editions. CQ Press. Available at the Athenaeum Boekhandel.

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

1.6. Weekly schedule

<i>Week and meeting</i>		<i>Content</i>	<i>Literature</i>	
Week 1	1 April	Lecture 1	Introduction to political behaviour	Dalton - Chapter 1
	2 April	Tutorial 1	Presentation of assignments and discussion of expectations	Course manual
	3 April	Lecture 2	Conflicts	Sherif, M. 1956. Experiments in group conflict. <i>Scientific American</i> 195: 54-58. Medeiros, M. 2019. National frenemies: Linguistic intergroup attitudes in Canada. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 42(16): 3-22.
	4 April	Tutorial 2	The barriers of history and culture?	Putnam, R.D. 1993. What makes democracy work? <i>National Civic Review</i> 82(2): 101-107. Clague, C., Gleason, S. & Knack, S., 2001. Determinants of lasting democracy in poor countries: Culture, development, and institutions. <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 573(1): 16-41.
Week 2	8 April	Lecture 3	Political attitudes 1	Dalton - Chapters 2 & 5
	9 April	Tutorial 3	Survey preparation 1	Çelebi, E., Verkuyten, M. & Smyrnioti, N. 2016. Support for Kurdish language rights in Turkey: The roles of ethnic group, group identifications, contact, and intergroup perceptions. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 39(6): 1034-1051. Sniderman, P.M., Fletcher, J.F., Russell, P.H. & Tetlock, P.E. 1989. Political culture and the problem of double standards: Mass and elite attitudes toward language rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 22(2): 259-284.
	10 April	Lecture 4	<u>No lecture</u>	

	11 April	Tutorial 4	Changing political opinions	<p>Page, B.I., Shapiro, R.Y. & Dempsey, G.R. 1987. What moves public opinion? <i>American Political Science Review</i> 81(1): 23-43.</p> <p>Baunach, D.M. 2012. Changing same-sex marriage attitudes in America from 1988 through 2010. <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 76(2): 364-378.</p>
Week 3	15 April	Lecture 5	Political attitudes 2	Dalton - Chapter 6
	16 April	Tutorial 5	Survey preparation 2	<u>No readings</u>
	17 April	Lecture 6	Voting 1	Baker, A., Ames, B. & Renno, L.R. 2006. Social context and campaign volatility in new democracies: Networks and neighborhoods in Brazil's 2002 elections. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 50(2): 382-399.
	18 April	Tutorial 6	Voting with no partisan cues	<p>Higley, J. & McAllister, I. 2002. Elite division and voter confusion: Australia's republic referendum in 1999. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 41(6): 845-861.</p> <p>Wright, G.C. 2008. Charles Adrian and the study of nonpartisan elections. <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 61(1): 13-16.</p>
	19 April	Deadline assignment #1		
Week 4	29 April	Lecture 7	Participation 1	Dalton - Chapter 3
	30 April	Tutorial 7	Experiment preparation 1	<p>Gerber, A.S., Green, D.P. & Larimer, C.W. 2008. Social pressure and voter turnout: Evidence from a large-scale field experiment. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 102(1): 33-48.</p> <p>Mahéo, V.A. 2017. Information campaigns and (under) privileged citizens: An experiment on the differential effects of a voting advice application. <i>Political Communication</i> 34(4): 511-529.</p>
	1 May	Lecture 8	Participation 2 Guest Lecture: Eddy Habben Jansen, ProDemos	Blais, A., 2006. What affects voter turnout? <i>Annual Review Political Science</i> 9: 111-125.

	2 May	Tutorial 8	How to enhance political participation?	Dalton - Chapter 4
Week 5	6 May	Lecture 9	Partisanship 1	Dalton - Chapter 8
	7 May	Tutorial 9	Experiment preparation 2	No reading. Discussion.
	8 May	Lecture 10	Partisanship 2	Dalton - Chapter 9
	9 May	Tutorial 10	The complexities of partisanship	Medeiros, M. & Noël, A. 2014. The forgotten side of partisanship: Negative party identification in four Anglo-American democracies. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 47(7): 1022-1046. Singh S. & Thornton, J. 2019. Elections activate partisanship across countries. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 113 (1): 248-253.
	10 May	Deadline assignment #2		
Week 6	13 May	Lecture 11	Political parties	Dalton - Chapter 7
	14 May	Tutorial 11	Interview preparation 1	Franceschet, S. & Piscopo, J.M. 2008. Gender quotas and women's substantive representation: Lessons from Argentina. <i>Politics & Gender</i> 4(3): 393-425.
	15 May	Lecture 12	Legislative behaviour	Dalton - Chapter 11
	16 May	Tutorial 12	Representation	Saalfeld, T. & Kyriakopoulou, K. 2011. Presence and behaviour: Black and minority ethnic MPs in the United Kingdom—An exploratory study. In <i>The Representation of Immigrants and Visible Minorities in Liberal Democracies: Voters, Parties and Parliaments</i> : 230-249.
Week 7	20 May	Lecture 13	Voting 2	Dalton - Chapter 10
	21 May	Tutorial 13	Interview preparation 2	No reading. Discussion.
	22 May	Lecture 14	The democratic process	Dalton - Chapter 12
	23 May	Tutorial 14	Course review (Preparation for exam)	Review Course
	24 May	Deadline assignment #3		
Week 8	27 May	<u>Final Exam</u>		

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 **19 April**, the second assignment consists of designing an experiment and must be submitted by **10 May**; and the third assignment consists of designing a questionnaire for a semi-structured interview and must be submitted by **24 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 Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted. Further details will be provided in class and in the tutorials.

A final exam will be held on **27 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 the readings assigned in both the lectures and the 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	19 April	15%	No	Yes	No
Writing assignment 2	10 May	15%	No	Yes	No
Writing assignment 3	24 May	15%	No	Yes	No
Final exam	27 May	45%	5.5	No	Yes
Resit	1 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 tutorial meetings **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

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 report is made on Canvas. 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 Canvas page. 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 Canvas.

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.

6. Contact information

Lecturer:

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Tutors:

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