
POLS-Y657

Comparative Political Behavior

Course Overview

This seminar provides an introduction to some of the major themes in political behavior, including partisanship, elections, political attitudes, information, ideology, participation, and the role of the mass media in shaping the public's political beliefs and orientations. We will consider how well our theories explain political outcomes in both democracies and autocracies.

Instructor

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Office Hours: Please sign up at <https://calendly.com/jasonywu/meeting>

Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to regularly attend class, actively contribute to class discussions, and complete the reading assignments. In addition, each student will be assigned the task of introducing and briefly critiquing one of the readings each class. In these overviews, students should highlight the question, theory, research design, results, and implications of their reading as well as note any major flaws.

For the writing component of this course, students will be required to write either a research paper or a research design/proposal. If it is a paper, it should be part of a project that is ultimately publishable, although you do not need to complete all parts of the project for this class. The paper should either be an original research paper or show substantial progress from previous work. If you are interested in co-authoring a paper with another student, please discuss that option with me in advance.

If students select the design option, they should submit a research proposal which identifies an important research question, surveys the relevant literature, identify a potential contribution, present a theoretical argument, and propose a design for testing that argument (which would ideally entail collecting original data). The goal of the design option is to begin to develop a dissertation prospectus.

Regardless of which option is chosen, a topic, research question, and brief description of the motivation is due on September 15, while an annotated bibliography and a revised description of the topic are due on October 20. The final paper or proposal will be due on December 12.

Finally, students will be expected to prepare a conference-style presentation of their research during the last two weeks of class.

- Participation: 40%
- Research Paper or Proposal: 40%
- Presentation: 20%

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

You are expected to abide by the guidelines of the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (<http://studentcode.iu.edu/responsibilities/academic-misconduct.html>) regarding cheating and plagiarism. Any ideas or materials taken from another source must be fully acknowledged and cited.

Disability Accommodation

Please contact me if you require assistance or academic accommodations for a disability. You should establish your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students in Wells Library W302, 812-855-7578.

Week 1: Introduction and Political Culture

August 25

- Ann Swidler. Culture in action: Symbols and strategies. *American Sociological Review*, 51(2):273, 1986
- Robert D Putnam. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1993, Chapters 4-5.
- Stelios Michalopoulos and Melanie Meng Xue. Folklore. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136(4):1993–2046, November 2021

Week 2: Ideology

September 1

- Philip E Converse. The nature of belief systems in mass publics. In David Apter, editor, *Ideology and Discontent*, pages 206–261. Free Press, New York, 1964.
- Stephen Ansolabehere, Jonathan Rodden, and James M Snyder. The strength of issues: Using multiple measures to gauge preference stability, ideological constraint, and issue voting. *American Political Science Review*, 102(02):215–232, May 2008.

- Devin Caughey, Tom O’Grady, and Christopher Warshaw. Policy Ideology in European Mass Publics, 1981–2016. *American Political Science Review*, 113(3):674–693, August 2019
- Lilliana Mason. Ideologues without Issues: The Polarizing Consequences of Ideological Identities. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 82(S1):866–887, April 2018
- Jason Y Wu and Tianguang Meng. The Nature of Ideology in Urban China. *Comparative Politics*, forthcoming.

Week 3: Information

September 8

- John Zaller and Stanley Feldman. A simple theory of the survey response: Answering questions versus revealing preferences. *American Journal of Political Science*, 36(3):579–616, 1992.
- Charles S Taber and Milton Lodge. Motivated skepticism in the evaluation of political beliefs. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(3):755–769, 2006.
- D.J. Flynn, Brendan Nyhan, and Jason Reifler. The Nature and Origins of Misperceptions: Understanding False and Unsupported Beliefs About Politics. *Political Psychology*, 38(S1):127–150, 2017.
- Sumitra Badrinathan. Educative Interventions to Combat Misinformation: Evidence from a Field Experiment in India. *American Political Science Review*, 115(4):1325–1341, November 2021.
- Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman. Informational Autocrats. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33(4):100–127, November 2019.

Week 4: Socialization and Influences

September 15

- **Research paper/proposal topic and question due today**
- John R Alford, Carolyn L Funk, and John R Hibbing. Are political orientations genetically transmitted? *American Political Science Review*, 99(02):153–167, May 2005.
- Virginia Sapiro. Not Your Parents’ Political Socialization: Introduction for a New Generation. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7(1):1–23, 2004.
- Alan S Gerber, Gregory A Huber, David Doherty, Conor M Dowling, and Shang E Ha. Personality and political attitudes: Relationships across issue domains and political contexts. *American Political Science Review*, 104(1):111–133, 2010.

- Alexander Bor and Michael Bang Petersen. The Psychology of Online Political Hostility: A Comprehensive, Cross-National Test of the Mismatch Hypothesis. *American Political Science Review*, 116(1):1–18, February 2022.
- Rory Truex. Political Discontent in China Is Associated with Isolating Personality Traits. *The Journal of Politics*, 84(4):16, 2022.

Week 5: Spatial Approaches

September 22

- Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, volume 13. Harper & Row, New York, 1957, Chapters 3 and 8.
- George Rabinowitz and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. A directional theory of issue voting. *American Political Science Review*, 83(1):93–121, 1989.
- Orit Kedar. When moderate voters prefer extreme parties: Policy balancing in parliamentary elections. *American Political Science Review*, 99(2):185–199, 2005.
- James F Adams, Samuel Merrill, and Bernard Grofman. *A Unified Theory of Party Competition*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2005, Chapters 2-3.
- Tarik Abou-Chadi and Werner Krause. The causal effect of radical right success on mainstream parties' policy positions: A regression discontinuity approach. *British Journal of Political Science*, 50(3):829–847, July 2020.

Week 6: Party Identification

September 29

- Angus Campbell, Philip Converse, Warren E Miller, and Donald E Stokes. *The American Voter*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1960, Chapter 7.
- Eric Schickler and Donald Philip Green. The Stability of Party Identification in Western Democracies: Results from Eight Panel Surveys. *Comparative Political Studies*, 30(4):450–483, August 1997
- Ted Brader and Joshua A Tucker. The Emergence of Mass Partisanship in Russia, 1993-1996. *American Journal of Political Science*, 45(1):69–83, 2001.
- Noam Lupu. Brand Dilution and the Breakdown of Political Parties in Latin America. *World Politics*, 66(4):561–602, October 2014.
- Christopher H Achen and Larry M Bartels. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2016, Chapter 9.

Week 7: Economic Evaluations

October 6

- G Bingham Powell and Guy D Whitten. A cross-national analysis of economic voting: Taking account of the political context. *American Journal of Political Science*, 37(2):391–414, 1993.
- Timothy Hellwig and David Samuels. Electoral accountability and the variety of democratic regimes. *British Journal of Political Science*, 38(1):65–90, 2008.
- Christopher H Achen and Larry M Bartels. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2016, Chapters 4, 6.
- Ji Yeon Hong, Sunkyoung Park, and Hyunjoo Yang. In Strongman We Trust: The Political Legacy of the New Village Movement in South Korea. *American Journal of Political Science*, Forthcoming.
- Bryn Rosenfeld. Reevaluating the Middle-Class Protest Paradigm: A Case-Control Study of Democratic Protest Coalitions in Russia. *American Political Science Review*, 111(4):637–652, 2017

Week 8: Nationalism and Identity

October 13

- Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso, New York, 2006, Chapters 1-3.
- Daniel N Posner. The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review*, 98(4):529–545, 2004.
- Christopher H Achen and Larry M Bartels. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2016, Chapter 8.
- Dominik Hangartner, Elias Dinas, Moritz Marbach, Konstantinos Matakos, and Dimitrios Xefteris. Does exposure to the refugee crisis make natives more hostile? *American Political Science Review*, 113(2):442–455, May 2019.
- Ala' Alrababa'h, William Marble, Salma Mousa, and Alexandra A. Siegel. Can Exposure to Celebrities Reduce Prejudice? The Effect of Mohamed Salah on Islamophobic Behaviors and Attitudes. *American Political Science Review*, 115(4):1111–1128, November 2021.

Week 9: Clientelism and Elite-Citizen Linkages

October 20

- **Research paper/proposal annotated bibliographies due today**

- Herbert Kitschelt. Linkages between citizens and politicians in democratic polities. *Comparative Political Studies*, 33(6-7):845–879, 2000.
- Adam Michael Auerbach and Tariq Thachil. How Clients Select Brokers: Competition and Choice in India’s Slums. *American Political Science Review*, 112(4):775–791, November 2018.
- Jordan Gans-Morse, Sebastian Mazzuca, and Simeon Nichter. Varieties of clientelism: Machine politics during elections. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(1), 2014.
- Alisha C Holland. Forbearance. *American Political Science Review*, 110(2):232–246, 2016.
- Kenneth F. Greene. Campaign Effects and the Elusive Swing Voter in Modern Machine Politics. *Comparative Political Studies*, 54(1):77–109, January 2021.

Week 10: Campaigns, Media Effects, and Propaganda

October 27

- Gregory J. Martin and Ali Yurukoglu. Bias in Cable News: Persuasion and Polarization. *American Economic Review*, 107(9):2565–2599, September 2017.
- Jaimie Bleck and Kristin Michelitch. Capturing the Airwaves, Capturing the Nation? A Field Experiment on State-Run Media Effects in the Wake of a Coup. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(3):873–889, July 2017.
- Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E Roberts. How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, Not Engaged Argument. *American Political Science Review*, 111(3):484–501, 2017.
- Yuyu Chen and David Y Yang. The impact of media censorship: 1984 or brave new world? *American Economic Review*, 109(6):2294–2332, 2019.
- Leonid Peisakhin and Arturas Rozenas. Electoral Effects of Biased Media: Russian Television in Ukraine. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(3):535–550, 2018.

Week 11: Turnout and Low-Risk Participation

November 3

- John H Aldrich. Rational choice and turnout. *American Journal of Political Science*, 37(1):246, 1993.
- Henry E Brady, Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. Beyond SES: A resource model of political participation. *American Political Science Review*, 89(2):271–294, 1995.

- Kevin J O'Brien. Rightful resistance. *World Politics*, 49(1):31–55, 1996.
- Carolina de Miguel, Amaney A Jamal, and Mark Tessler. Elections in the arab world: Why do citizens turn out? *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(11):1355–1388, 2015.
- Jonathan L Weigel. The Participation Dividend of Taxation: How Citizens in Congo Engage More with the State When it Tries to Tax Them. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 135(4):1849–1903, November 2020.

Week 12: Protest, Contentious Politics, and High-Risk Participation

November 10

- Doug McAdam. Recruitment to high-risk activism: The case of freedom summer. *American Journal of Sociology*, 92(1):64–90, 1986.
- Herbert P Kitschelt. Political opportunity structures and political protest: Anti-nuclear movements in four democracies. *British Journal of Political Science*, 16(1):57–85, 1986
- Timur Kuran. Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. *World Politics*, 44(1):7–48, 1991.
- Elisabeth Jean Wood. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2003, Chapters 1, 7.

Week 13: Repression, Violence, and Historical Legacies

November 17

- Noam Lupu and Leonid Peisakhin. The Legacy of Political Violence Across Generations. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(4):836–851, 2017.
- Arturas Rozenas and Yuri M Zhukov. Mass Repression and Political Loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's 'Terror by Hunger'. *American Political Science Review*, 113(2):569–583, 2019.
- Scott W Desposato, Gang Wang, and Jason Y Wu. The Long-Term Impact of Mobilization and Repression on Political Trust. *Comparative Political Studies*, 54(14):2447–2474, March 2021.
- Elizabeth R Nugent. *After Repression: How Polarization Derails Democratic Transition*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2020, Chapters 1, 2, 5.

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

November 24 - No Class

Week 15: In-Class Conference, Part I

December 1

- Student Presentations

Week 16: In-Class Conference, Part II

December 8

- Student Presentations

Final paper or proposal due December 12.