
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

Jason Wu
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Meeting Online

We will meet during our regular class time (4:55pm Eastern Time on Thursdays) synchronously on Zoom. For most of you, this will mean using your computer and internet connection to log in for synchronous class meetings. If your internet connection is unstable, you will be able to call in to the Zoom meeting. Please keep your video on during class.

The basic information for joining our classes is listed below. Additional ways to join our class sessions will be posted on Canvas.

Zoom Link: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/82201395407>

Meeting ID: 822 0139 5407

Dial-in Phone Number (US): +1 312 626 6799

Thank you for your patience as we grapple with all of this. The plan outlined here is the initial iteration of our online class, but it may change going forward. Please stay tuned to your email and to the announcements on Canvas!

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 February 11, while an annotated bibliography and a revised description of the topic are due on March 18. The final paper or proposal will be due on May 4.

Finally, students will be expected to prepare a conference-style presentation of their research on the last day 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

January 21

- 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 5-6.
- Gerry Mackie. Ending Footbinding and Infibulation: A Convention Account. *American Sociological Review*, 61(6):999, December 1996
- Vasiliki Fouka. How Do Immigrants Respond to Discrimination? The Case of Germans in the US During World War I. *American Political Science Review*, 113(2):405–422, 2019

Week 2: Ideology

January 28

- 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.
- Yotam Margalit. Explaining Social Policy Preferences: Evidence from the Great Recession. *American Political Science Review*, 107(1):80–103, 2013
- Torben Iversen and David Soskice. Information, Inequality, and Mass Polarization: Ideology in Advanced Democracies. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(13):1781–1813, August 2015
- Jennifer Pan and Yiqing Xu. China's Ideological Spectrum. *The Journal of Politics*, 80(1):254–273, 2018

Week 3: Information

February 4

- 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.
- Larry M Bartels. Uninformed votes: Information effects in presidential elections. *American Journal of Political Science*, 40(1):194–230, 1996.

- Charles S Taber and Milton Lodge. Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(3):755–769, 2006.
- Haifeng Huang. A War of (Mis)Information: The Political Effects of Rumors and Rumor Rebuttals in an Authoritarian Country. *British Journal of Political Science*, 47(2):283–311, 2015.
- Adam J Berinsky. Rumors and Health Care Reform: Experiments in Political Misinformation. *British Journal of Political Science*, 47(2):241–262, April 2017.

Week 4: Socialization and Influences

February 11

- **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.
- M Kent Jennings, Laura Stoker, and Jake Bowers. Politics across Generations: Family Transmission Reexamined. *The Journal of Politics*, 71(03):782–799, July 2009.
- 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.
- Samuel Greene and Graeme Robertson. Agreeable Authoritarians: Personality and Politics in Contemporary Russia:. *Comparative Political Studies*, 50(13):1802–1834, 2017.
- Lene Aarøe, Michael Bang Petersen, and Kevin Arceneaux. The Behavioral Immune System Shapes Political Intuitions: Why and How Individual Differences in Disgust Sensitivity Underlie Opposition to Immigration. *American Political Science Review*, 111(2):277–294, 2017.

Week 5: Spatial Approaches

February 18

- 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

February 25

- Angus Campbell, Philip Converse, Warren E Miller, and Donald E Stokes. *The American Voter*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1960, Chapter 7.
- 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. Party Brands and Partisanship: Theory with Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Argentina. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(1):49–64, 2013.
- Shanto Iyengar and Sean J Westwood. Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3):690–707, July 2015.
- Christopher H Achen and Larry M Bartels. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2016, Chapter 9.

Week 7: Economic Evaluations

March 4

- 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.
- Italo Colantone and Piero Stanig. Global Competition and Brexit. *American Political Science Review*, 112(2):201–218, 2016
- 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

March 11

- 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.
- Salma Mousa. Building social cohesion between Christians and Muslims through soccer in post-ISIS Iraq. *Science*, 369(6505):866–870, August 2020.

Week 9: Clientelism and Elite-Citizen Linkages

March 18

- **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.
- Tariq Thachil. Elite Parties and Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India. *American Political Science Review*, 108(2):454–477, 2014.
- 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.
- Junyan Jiang. Making Bureaucracy Work: Patronage Networks, Performance Incentives, and Economic Development in China. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(4):982–999, October 2018.

Week 10: Campaigns, Media Effects, and Propaganda

March 25

- Barbara Geddes and John Zaller. Sources of Popular Support for Authoritarian Regimes. *American Journal of Political Science*, 33(2):319–347, May 1989.

- Gabriel S Lenz. Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Priming Hypothesis. *American Journal of Political Science*, 53(4):821–837, 2009.
- 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.
- Iza Ding. Performative Governance. *World Politics*, 72(4):525–556, October 2020.

Week 11: Turnout and Low-Risk Participation

April 1

- 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.
- Kimuli Kasara and Pavithra Suryanarayan. When Do the Rich Vote Less Than the Poor and Why? Explaining Turnout Inequality across the World. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3):613–627, 2015.

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

April 8

- 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, and 8.

- Omar Wasow. Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting. *American Political Science Review*, 114(3):638–659, August 2020.

Week 13: Repression and Violence

April 15

- Steven I Wilkinson. *Votes and Violence: Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2004, Chapter 1.
- 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 Zhukov. Mass Repression and Political Loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's 'Terror by Hunger'. *American Political Science Review*, 113(2):569–583, 2019.
- Desposato, Scott, Gang Wang, and Jason Y. Wu. The Long-Term Impact of Mobilization and Repression on Political Trust. *Comparative Political Studies*, forthcoming.
- Elizabeth R Nugent. The Psychology of Repression and Polarization. *World Politics*, 72(2):291–334, April 2020.

Week 14: No Class

April 22 - Wellness Day

Week 15: Presentations

April 29

- Class conference

Final paper or proposal due May 4.