

Comparative Political behavior

PS 7975

Tuesdays
1:30 - 4:20
Stubbs 210

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Instructor Information

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Office Hours: By Appointment. For the best feedback, please email what you would like to discuss during office hours 24 hours in advance.

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare graduate students to do research on political behavior in comparative contexts. This course provides an overview of active research on political participation, behavioral effects of political institutions, voting behavior, party competition, and elite responsiveness. For each seminar, we will read a mix of foundational texts and recent research that demonstrates how innovative research design can shed new light on foundational questions in comparative politics.

Grade Breakdown

- Class Participation (20%) You must come to class every week fully prepared and actively participate in class discussions. To prepare for class discussions, outline materials and come to class with a list of questions and comments.
- Response Memos (20%) You are required to submit *four* response memos based on the assigned readings. The memo should be 2-3 pages long.
 - You can focus on one particular reading or make connections across readings.
 - Your memo should contain a brief summary of the theory and finding of the work, but it should do something more: articulate alternative explanations, connection to other work, and propose extensions. Questions to consider are: what is the author(s) argument? Do the findings support the argument or what additional data/ analysis is needed? Is there alternative explanation to the patterns displayed? What directions for future research arise from the paper? How would you go about conducting future research on this topic?

- Discussion Leading (20%) Two students will be collectively in charge of leading the discussion in each session, and every student will have to perform as discussant 2 times in the semester. The discussants should prepare a list of discussion questions or main points and submit these no later than 5PM on Monday before the class to the entire class. You should carefully think of discussion questions that can evoke thoughtful discussion, including not only of individual works but also how the week's readings are related to one another and to the rest of the course.
- Research Paper (40%) The primary goal of this course is to help you move further along the path developing your own research agenda. To that end, you will either work as a group or individually on a research project throughout the semester. A final research paper should look like an empirical journal article including a statement of a research question or puzzle, a literature review, theoretical argument that generates observable implications, a description of empirical evidence and research method, and a preliminary analysis.

Timeline for Research Paper:

- **February 12:** Submit a short research proposal (3-5 pages) describing your question of interest, theoretical argument, and plans for empirical analysis. You must circulate your proposal with the entire class. Each student will provide written comments to each student/ team's proposal. We will discuss each proposal On February 19 as a class.
- **April 9:** Submit the first draft of your paper. Your first draft should contain abstract, introduction, theory and hypotheses, literature review, and description of data and research method (everything except data analysis.) I will hold individual or group meetings to discuss your draft and things need to be completed before the final submission.
- **May 2:** Deadline for the final paper submission.

To get a sense about writing a publishable paper in political science, please read Gary King's guidelines on this topic: [\[Link\]](#)

Reading

- Articles: You are responsible for obtaining a copy of each and for bringing them to class with you each week.
- Books: I recommend you to purchase copies of the following books.
 - Rosenstone, Steven J., John Mark Hansen, and Keith Reeves. "Mobilization, participation, and democracy in America."
 - Cox, Gary. 1997. Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - Kittilson, Miki Caul, and Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer. 2012. The gendered effects of electoral institutions: Political engagement and participation. Oxford University Press.
 - Fraga, Bernard L. 2018. The Turnout Gap: Race, Ethnicity, and Political Inequality in a Diversifying America. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Dancygier, R.M., 2017. *Dilemmas of Inclusion: Muslims in European Politics*. Princeton University Press.

Course Schedule

- January 15: Course Introduction

Part I: Political Participation

- January 22: Models of Political Participation
 - Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. "Beyond SES: A resource model of political participation." *American Political Science Review* 89, no. 2 (1995): 271-294.
 - Rosenstone, Steven J., John Mark Hansen, and Keith Reeves. "Mobilization, participation, and democracy in America." (1993) (Chapter 2).
 - McClendon, Gwyneth, and Rachel Beatty Riedl. "Religion as a stimulant of political participation: Experimental evidence from Nairobi, Kenya." *The Journal of Politics* 77, no. 4 (2015): 1045-1057.
 - Carpenter, Daniel, and Colin D. Moore. "When canvassers became activists: Antislavery petitioning and the political mobilization of American women." *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 3 (2014): 479-498.
 - Blattman, Christopher. "From violence to voting: War and political participation in Uganda." *American political Science review* 103, no. 2 (2009): 231-247.
- January 29: Voter Turnout
 - Aldrich, John H. "Rational choice and turnout." *American journal of political science* (1993): 246-278.
 - Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer. "Social pressure and voter turnout: Evidence from a large-scale field experiment." *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 1 (2008): 33-48.
 - Sinclair, Betsy. *The social citizen: Peer networks and political behavior*. University of Chicago Press, 2012 (chapters 1 & 2)
 - Blais, André. 2006. "What Affects Voter Turnout?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 111-125.
- February 5: Electoral Institutions and Participation
 - Kittilson, Miki Caul, and Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer. *The gendered effects of electoral institutions: Political engagement and participation*. Oxford University Press, 2012 (chapters 2-5).
 - Clayton, Amanda. "Women's political engagement under quota-mandated female representation: Evidence from a randomized policy experiment." *Comparative Political Studies* 48, no. 3 (2015): 333-369.

- Braconnier, Céline, Jean-Yves Dormagen, and Vincent Pons. “Voter registration costs and disenfranchisement: experimental evidence from France.” *American Political Science Review* 111, no. 3 (2017): 584-604.
- Bechtel, Michael M., Dominik Hangartner, and Lukas Schmid. “Compulsory voting, habit formation, and political participation.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 0 (2017).

Part II: Voting Behavior

- February 12: Strategic Voting
 - Cox, Gary (1997). *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World’s Electoral Systems*. New York: Cambridge University Press (chapters 2-5).
 - Singer, Matthew M., and Laura B. Stephenson. “The political context and Duverger’s theory: Evidence at the district level.” *Electoral Studies* 28, no. 3 (2009): 480-491.
 - Abramson, Paul R., John H. Aldrich, André Blais, Matthew Diamond, Abraham Diskin, Indridi H. Indridason, Daniel J. Lee, and Renan Levine. “Comparing strategic voting under FPTP and PR.” *Comparative Political Studies* 43, no. 1 (2010): 61-90.
- February 19: **Research Workshop** You are required to read each other’s proposal and provide written feedback to each of them. We will also discuss proposals during class.
- February 26: Performance-Based Voting
 - Lewis-Beck, Michael S., and Mary Stegmaier. “Economic determinants of electoral outcomes.” *Annual review of political science* 3, no. 1 (2000): 183-219.
 - Healy, Andrew, and Neil Malhotra. 2009. “Myopic voters and natural disaster policy.” *American Political Science Review* 103 (3): 387-406.
 - Bechtel, M.M. and Hainmueller, J., 2011. “How lasting is voter gratitude? An analysis of the short-and long-term electoral returns to beneficial policy.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(4), pp.852-868.
 - Powell Jr, G. Bingham, and Guy D. Whitten. “A cross-national analysis of economic voting: taking account of the political context.” *American Journal of Political Science* (1993): 391-414.
 - Hellwig, Timothy, and David Samuels. “Electoral accountability and the variety of democratic regimes.” *British Journal of Political Science* 38, no. 1 (2008): 65-90.
- March 5: No Class (Mardi Gras)
- March 12: Identity-Based Voting
 - Bobo, Lawrence, and Franklin D. Gilliam. “Race, sociopolitical participation, and black empowerment.” *American Political Science Review* 84, no. 2 (1990): 377-393.
 - Gay, Claudine. “The effect of black congressional representation on political participation.” *American Political Science Review* 95, no. 3 (2001): 589-602.

- McConnaughey, Corrine M., Ismail K. White, David L. Leal, and Jason P. Casellas. “A Latino on the ballot: Explaining coethnic voting among Latinos and the response of White Americans.” *The Journal of Politics* 72, no. 4 (2010): 1199-1211.
- Fraga, Bernard L. (2018) *The Turnout Gap: Race, Ethnicity, and Political Inequality in a Diversifying America*. New York: Cambridge University Press (chapters to be assigned).

Part III: Elite Behavior

- March 19: Elite-Voter Linkages
Parties and Voter Mobilization:

- Adams, James, Merrill and Grofman. *A Unified Theory of Party Competition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (chapters 1 and 6).
- Miller, Gary, and Norman Schofield. “Activists and partisan realignment in the United States.” *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 2 (2003): 245-260.

Personalistic Linkages:

- Kitschelt, Herbert. “Linkages between citizens and politicians in democratic polities.” *Comparative political studies* 33, no. 6-7 (2000): 845-879.
- Brusco, Valeria, Marcelo Nazareno, and Susan C. Stokes. “Vote buying in Argentina.” *Latin American Research Review* (2004): 66-88.
- Van der Brug, Wouter, and Anthony Mughan. “Charisma, leader effects and support for right-wing populist parties.” *Party Politics* 13, no. 1 (2007): 29-51.

- March 26: Dynamics of Party Competition

- Hobolt, Sara B., and Catherine E. De Vries. 2015. “Issue entrepreneurship and multi-party competition.” *Comparative Political Studies* 48 (9): 1159-1185.
- Somer-Topcu, Zeynep. 2015. “Everything to everyone: The electoral consequences of the broad-appeal strategy in Europe.” *American Journal of Political Science* 59 (4): 841-854.
- Tavits, Margit. “Principle vs. pragmatism: Policy shifts and political competition.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51, no. 1 (2007): 151-165.
- Meguid, Bonnie M. “Competition between unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success.” *American Political Science Review* 99, no. 3 (2005): 347-359.
- Ward, Dalston, Jeong Hyun Kim, Matthew Graham, and Margit Tavits. 2015. “How economic integration affects party issue emphases.” *Comparative Political Studies* 48 (10): 1227-1259.

- April 2: Elite Responsiveness

- Crisp, Brian F., Maria C. Escobar-Lemmon, Bradford S. Jones, Mark P. Jones, and Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson. 2004. “Vote-seeking incentives and legislative representation in six presidential democracies.” *The Journal of Politics* 66 (3): 823-846.

- Sheffer, Lior, Peter John Loewen, Stuart Soroka, Stefaan Walgrave, and Tamir Sheafer. 2018. “Nonrepresentative representatives: an experimental study of the decision making of elected politicians.” *American Political Science Review* 112 (2): 302-321.
 - Thomson, Robert, Terry Royed, Elin Naurin, Joaquín Artés, Rory Costello, Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik, Mark Ferguson et al. 2017. “The fulfillment of parties’ election pledges: A comparative study on the impact of power sharing.” *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (3): 527-542.
 - Butler, Daniel M., and David W. Nickerson. 2011. “Can Learning Constituency Opinion Affect how Legislators Vote? Results from a Field Experiment.” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 6 (1): 55-83.
 - Giger, Nathalie, and Heike Klüver. 2016. “Voting against your constituents? How lobbying affects representation.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60 (1): 190-205.
- April 9: Individual/ Group Meetings
 - April 16: No Class (Spring Break)
 - April 23: Electoral Consequences of Immigration
 - Dancygier, R.M., 2017. *Dilemmas of Inclusion: Muslims in European Politics*. Princeton University Press (chapters to be assigned).
 - Hainmueller, Jens, and Dominik Hangartner. 2013. “Who gets a Swiss passport? A natural experiment in immigrant discrimination.” *American Political Science Review* 107 (1): 159-187.
 - Dal Bó, Ernesto, Frederico Finan, Olle Folke, Torsten Persson, and Johanna Rickne. “Economic Losers and Political Winners: Sweden’s Radical Right.” Working Paper (2018).
 - Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. “Trump, Brexit, and the rise of populism: Economic have-nots and cultural backlash.”
- Optional:
- * Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2015. “The hidden American immigration consensus: A conjoint analysis of attitudes toward immigrants.” *American Journal of Political Science* 59 (3): 529-548.
 - * Dinas, Elias, Konstantinos Matakos, Dimitrios Xefteris, and Dominik Hangartner. 2018. “Waking Up the Golden Dawn: Does Exposure to the Refugee Crisis Increase Support for Extreme-Right Parties?” *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming).