



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

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**Course Manual**

**Political Behaviour**

PPLE College 2020-2021

## 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 Online Teaching

The lectures will consist of pre-recorded videos and presentations that will be available on Canvas. The tutorials will be in the form of virtual meetings via Zoom.

Q&A sessions will be held via Zoom with the lecturer every two weeks.

### 1.3 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 policymaking. 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? Why do people have hostility towards members of outgroups?

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

### 1.4 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.

### 1.5 Timetable

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

### 1.6 Literature / readings

Dalton, R.J. 2020. Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press. You can also use the 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

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

## 1.7 Weekly schedule

<b>Week and meeting</b>			<b>Content</b>	<b>Literature</b>
Week 1	29 March	Lecture1	Introduction to political behaviour	Dalton - Chapter 1
	30 March	Tutorial 1	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.
	31 March	Lecture 2	Political attitudes	Dalton - Chapters 2 & 5-6
	1 April	Tutorial 2	Changing political opinions	Page, B.I., Shapiro, R.Y. & Dempsey, G.R. 1987. What moves public opinion? <i>American Political Science Review</i> 81(1): 23-43.  Baunach, D.M. 2012. Changing same-sex marriage attitudes in America from 1988 through 2010. <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 76(2): 364-378.
Week 2	6 April	Tutorial 3	Assignment preparation	No assigned readings.
	7 April	Lecture 3	Participation	Dalton - Chapters 3-4
	8 April	Tutorial 4	How to enhance political participation?	Weinschenk, A.C. & Dawes, C.T. 2021. Civic education in high school and voter turnout in adulthood. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> .  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.

Week 3	12 April	Lecture 4	Political parties	Dalton - Chapter 7
	13 April	Tutorial 5	Political parties in non-democratic contexts	Bellinger, N. 2020. Political parties and citizens' well-being among non-democratic developing countries. <i>Party Politics</i> .  Meng, A. 2019. Ruling parties in authoritarian regimes: Rethinking institutional strength. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> .
	14 April	Lecture 5	Partisanship	Dalton – Chapters 8 & 9
	15 April	Tutorial 6	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.
Week 4	19 April	Lecture 6	Voting	Dalton - Chapter 10  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.
	20 April	Tutorial 7	Voting with no partisan cues	McGregor, R.M., Moore, A.A. & Stephenson, L.B. 2016. Political attitudes and behaviour in a non-partisan environment: Toronto 2014. <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 49(2): 311-333.  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.
	21 April	Lecture 7	Gender and Electoral Politics  Guest Lecture: Ruth Dassonneville	Dassonneville, R. & McAllister, I. 2018. Gender, political knowledge, and descriptive representation: The impact of long-term socialization. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 62(2): 249-265.

				Dassonneville, R. & Kostelka, F. 2020. The cultural sources of the gender gap in voter turnout. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> .
	22 April	Tutorial 8	Representation	<p>Saalfeld, T. &amp; Bischof, D. 2013. Minority-ethnic MPs and the substantive representation of minority interests in the House of Commons, 2005–2011. <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> 66(2): 305-328.</p> <p>Franceschet, S. &amp; Piscopo, J.M. 2008. Gender quotas and women's substantive representation: Lessons from Argentina. <i>Politics &amp; Gender</i> 4(3): 393-425.</p>
	23 April	<b>Assignment outline submission deadline</b>		
	28 April	Lecture 8	Legislative behaviour	Dalton - Chapter 11
Week 5	29 April	Tutorial 9	The difference between leaders and citizens	<p>Scott, C. &amp; Medeiros, M. 2020. Personality and political careers: What personality types are likely to run for office and get elected? <i>Personality and Individual Differences</i> 152.</p> <p>Knappert, L., Van Dijk, H., Yuan, S., Engel, Y., van Prooijen, J.W. &amp; Krouwel, A. 2020. Personal contact with refugees is key to welcoming them: An analysis of politicians' and citizens' attitudes towards refugee integration. <i>Political Psychology</i>.</p>
Week 6	10 May	Lecture 9	<p>Lobbying</p> <p>Guest Lecture: Maxime Boucher</p>	<p>Braun, C. 2012. The driving forces of stability: Exploring the nature of long-term bureaucracy-interest group interactions. <i>Administration &amp; Society</i> 45(7): 809–836.</p> <p>Cooper, C. A. &amp; Boucher, M. 2019. Lobbying and uncertainty: Lobbying's varying response to different political events. <i>Governance</i> 32(3): 441-455.</p>

	11 May	Tutorial 10	Accepting minority rights	<p>Çelebi, E., Verkuyten, M. &amp; 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.</p> <p>Lacina, B. 2020. Opposition to ethnic territorial autonomy in the Indian parliament. <i>Ethnopolitics</i>: 1-24.</p>
	12 May	Lecture 10	Immigration Guest Lecture: Colin Scott	<p>Valentino, N. A., Soroka, S. N., Iyengar, S., Aalberg, T., Duch, R., Fraile, M., Hahn, K. S., Hansen, K. M., Harell, A., Helbling, M. &amp; Jackman, S. D. 2019. Economic and cultural drivers of immigrant support worldwide. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 49(4): 1201-1226.</p> <p>Hopkins, D. J. 2010. Politicized places: Explaining where and when immigrants provoke local opposition. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 104(1): 40-60.</p>
	13 May	<b>Deadline Assignment</b>		
Week 7	17 May	Lecture 11	Conflicts	<p>Sherif, M. 1956. Experiments in group conflict. <i>Scientific American</i> 195: 54-58.</p> <p>Medeiros, M. 2019. National frenemies: Linguistic intergroup attitudes in Canada. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 42(16): 3-22.</p>
	18 May	Tutorial 11	Student presentations	No assigned reading.
	19 May	Lecture 12	The democratic process	Dalton - Chapter 12
	20 May	Tutorial 12	Course review	No assigned reading.
Week 8	26 May	<b>Exam</b>		

## 2. Assessment and testing

### 2.1 Assessments

Writing assignment (25%), Student presentation (10%), Exam (50%), and Tutorial participation (15%).

The student will produce a writing assignment that will be used to deepen their knowledge of the course material. It will consist of a synthesis of 6 double-spaced pages (approximately 1,800 words) of important studies on a research question relating to the COVID-19 crisis and based on one of the themes explored in the course. In order to get useful feedback, the student is encouraged to submit via Canvas by **23 April** an outline of their assignment. The writing assignment must be submitted via Canvas by **13 May**. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Further details are available in the Guidelines for the Assignment document on Canvas; they will also be provided in class and in the tutorials.

The student presentation will be based on the writing assignment that the student will produce. They will be expected to summarize their research. The presentation should be about 5 minutes. The presentations are scheduled for **18 May**.

A final exam will be held on **26 May**. The exam will be open book 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). Further details will be provided in class and in 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	Resit
Participation	—	15%	No	No
Writing assignment	13 May	25%	No	No
Presentation	18 May	10%	No	No
Final Exam	<u>26 May</u>	50%	5.5	Yes
Resit	<u>30 June</u>	50%	5.5	No

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

Ad 2 In order to complete the course, the total rounded average should be 6.0 or higher.

Ad 3 In accordance with Regulations and Guidelines EB a component (including the resit) may not weigh more than 70% of the final grade. Individual work comprises minimum of 50% of the final grade.

### 3. Attendance & Responsibilities

#### 3.1 Attendance

Students are expected to participate in online tutorial activities and tutors will register attendance. Attendance is monitored through [Academy Attendance](#). 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. This also applies to online teaching. **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. Online teaching: ZOOM Rules & guidelines PPLE College

PPLE College will be using Zoom for our lectures and tutorials. You can find your class link via Canvas and information will be given by your tutors and lecturers. The class times will be as indicated, so be sure to join the ZOOM meeting a few minutes before the start of the class. While the online environment may be new to us, we would like to list some helpful tips on how teachers and students can get the most out of our Zoom classes.

- Be on time with your camera on.
- Be prepared for class just as you would in person.
- Make sure you are in a quiet space where you can join us uninterrupted.
- Mute the microphone when listening to a teacher or a fellow student for a longer time. There is always the chance of unexpected background noises in our homes.
- If you have a virtual background, please make sure it is community friendly.
- If you have a question, please use the hand raise icon.
- Avoid the use of social media and other web browsing that is unrelated to the lesson.
- Please pay attention during the class and avoid leaving the computer outside of scheduled breaks.
- If you lose the Zoom connection, simply try to rejoin by clicking the link again. If all fails, notify your teacher asap of what you missed through an appropriate channel.
- Please refrain from other unrelated parallel activities such as getting coffee, preparing dinner or knitting a scarf. This can be highly distracting for everyone else, as well as for yourself: multitasking is a myth.

Most importantly, **be kind and considerate**. Help each other, including your teacher, with any technical issues or questions that may come up.

For additional information, support and tips regarding online studying, please visit the university website: <https://student.uva.nl/en/content/az/studying-at-home-during-the-corona-crisis/studying-at-home-during-the-corona-crisis.html>

## 5. Fraud and Plagiarism

For all written assignments, a Urkund assignment is made on Canvas. Urkund 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>

## 6. More information

This course has a Canvas page. Here you can find the necessary details, like the group information of your tutorials, the assignments etc. 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. Should you wish to deregister, please email [Educationdesk-PPLE@uva.nl](mailto:Educationdesk-PPLE@uva.nl) For more information about SIS visit: [www.student.uva.nl/sis](http://www.student.uva.nl/sis) .

## 7. Contact information

### Lecturer:

- Dr. Mike Medeiros [m.medeiros@uva.nl](mailto:m.medeiros@uva.nl)

### Tutors:

- João Areal Neto [j.b.arealneto@uva.nl](mailto:j.b.arealneto@uva.nl)
- Anna Blijdenstein [a.e.e.blijdenstein@uva.nl](mailto:a.e.e.blijdenstein@uva.nl)