

POU33122. Political Participation

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm during teaching weeks, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Clara Fauli Molas (faulmolc@tcd.ie)

Lectures: Tuesdays 1-2pm @ ARTS 5025 and Fridays 1-2pm @ ARTS 3126

Tutorials: (Groups 1 and 2) Tuesdays 4-5pm @ ARTS 3081 (every other week)
(Groups 3 and 4) Thursdays 11am-12pm @ College Green 4 (every other week)

Module description

This module will examine and analyse mass political behavior from a comparative perspective. We will discuss major issues in the study of political participation including defining and conceptualizing political participation, analyzing the dynamics of individual participation and mass mobilization from individual as well as from group-level perspectives.

Learning aims

Students will learn about the key issues in defining and conceptualizing political participation and recent trends in different forms of political participation across the world, understand the individual and contextual level factors explaining political participation, become familiar with current issues in political participation research, and be able to assess the relative influences of personal and societal factors in voting and other forms of political participation.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain and summarise the current debates in political participation research.
2. Define and discuss the major trends in political participation across the world.
3. Analyse the effect of micro, meso, and macro level determinants of conventional and unconventional forms of political participation.
4. Develop arguments, based on empirical evidence, about the causes of recent political protests around the world.

Office hours

In case you have any questions about course content, readings, or class discussions, please come to my office hours on **Tuesdays 2-4pm**. In case you cannot make it to the office hours, please e-mail me to set up an appointment. I will try to respond to your e-mails within two days, but note that I may get back to you a bit later than that if I am travelling to attend academic events during the semester.

Please note that I will not be able to answer substantive questions concerning course content via e-mail. In case you have such questions, please see me during office hours or raise them during class

meetings. Please bear in mind that office hours are not intended to replace lectures and neither the course instructor nor the T.A. is responsible for covering the lecture material for you outside the class or tutorials. Therefore, do not assume that you can make up for the classes or tutorials that you missed by coming to office hours or contacting the T.A.

Course organization

Lectures

We will have 2 one-hour lectures per week and 1 tutorial per fortnight. To facilitate class discussion, in some classes we may make use of internet searches or web tools such as Mentimeter or Blackboard. You do not need to download any applications. A phone or tablet (or laptop) with enough battery and is connected to the internet will suffice for these activities. You can contact the [IT Services](#) in case you have problems connecting your device to the university network.

Tutorials and Response Papers

There will be 5 tutorial sessions that will meet fortnightly through the academic year. Tutorials meet at the following times in the following places:

Groups 1 and 2: Tuesdays 4-5pm @ ARTS 3081

Groups 3 and 4: Thursdays 11am-12pm @ College Green 4

Groups 1 and 3 start in Week 2, and groups 2 and 4 start in Week 3, and meet every other week. Please check your timetables for tutorial meeting weeks.

Tutorials will be moderated by Teaching Assistant Clara Fauli Molas and will include in-depth discussion and analysis of the topics covered in the lectures. **Please note that there is a separate tutorial reading list on Blackboard.**

Students are required to submit response papers before the tutorials. All response papers are due at **6 pm on Monday** of the week your tutorial will take place. That is, if your tutorial starts in Week 2, your first response paper will be due on 27 January.

Response papers should be between 300 and 350 words; must be properly cited and referenced. All response papers submitted must be student's own work, and they must abide by the plagiarism policy of our university (please see below).

Response papers should be submitted via Blackboard. **Please note that late submissions will not be accepted.**

The tutorial reading list provides **discussion prompts** that you are asked to respond to. Your discussion should directly address the prompt, **should engage with the required reading(s) or sources assigned for that week.** For some weeks, we will also ask you to do some exercises and reflect on their implications in the response paper.

The prompts questions will require you to critically approach and evaluate the materials assigned for the week along with your take on how these concepts or theories apply to real world issues and challenges. Response papers should not be mere summaries of the material or discussion or description of recent issues, but should be critical assessment of the readings and current issues that we ask you to evaluate. You should make sure to back your arguments with proper examples and evidence.

Response papers will be graded on a P/Partial Pass/Fail basis (1 points=Pass, 0.5 points=Partial pass, 0 points=Fail).

Tutorial attendance and response papers will count towards 5% of your final grade for this module. To be able to get the full grade from the tutorials, students must attend at least 4 tutorials AND get a total of 4 points from the response papers submitted.

Please note that tutorials are not substitute lectures where students who did not attend a lecture can expect to be filled in on what they missed. Tutorials will give you the opportunity to ask questions and put forward your views about the topic under discussion. Occasionally, some clarifying information may be provided but the tutorial moderator is not there to inform and instruct but, rather, to moderate discussion. Please do not ask the tutorial moderator to repeat or explain the material covered in the lectures.

Note that attendance in lectures and tutorials are essential to your success in this course. Lecture slides will not be sufficient to reconstruct the content of the lectures. You will need to be able to connect the readings, lectures and tutorial discussions to be able to write good essays and get a satisfactory grade in the essays and in the final exam.

Excused absence from tutorials is only possible with a note from the tutor of the student. Please note that you will still need to submit a response paper to be able to get course credit for tutorial attendance.

Assessment

1) Tutorial attendance and response papers (5%). See above.

2) Essay assignment (35%) – due 24 February 2020 (Monday), 5pm via Blackboard.

Students must write an academic essay chosen from the topics below:

Option 1: Discuss the following statement: "Even when the underclass isn't formally stripped of its ballot, a slew of barriers come between them and full participation."

Option 2: "Democracies are at risk if young people continue to shun the ballot box." Discuss.

This essay should not exceed 2,000 words in length. Please see the format guidelines and other requirements for the essay below.

3) Final assignment (60%) – due 14 April 2020, 5pm via Blackboard. Students will submit a final assignment (an academic essay, 3,000 words including all citations and references) that covers all the term's material. I will post the essay topic on Week 5, along with detailed information about the requirements and expectations. We will also discuss these in detail in class. We will also do some essay reviews on Week 11 and you will get feedback from your peers and from me about your essay plans.

Essay and final assignment format and guidelines

In line with departmental guidelines, all essays and final assignments must:

- be within 10% above or below the specified word limit, (Penalties will apply if the submitted work is under or exceeds this limit)
- state the final word count at the beginning,
- be submitted in Word or PDF format via Blackboard,
- use double or 1.5 line spacing and leave a margin of at least one inch at the left-hand side,
- must be numbered,

- use proper citation and referencing, (You can use the referencing format of your choice as long as it is consistent across the essay.)
- abide by Trinity plagiarism policy,
- As per Trinity policy, all essays should begin with the **essay cover sheet**, affirming that the essay is all the student's own work. The cover can be downloaded from the [department web site](#).

For the essays, you are required to (i) draw on academic literature (academic articles and/or books) and (ii) properly cite the academic literature you use to prepare your essay. You should cite coherently and attach an ALPHABETISED bibliography to your essay. Students should read beyond the reading list for the essays. If you require information on proper citation style, please refer to one of the following books:

- The University of Chicago Press. 2010. *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors and Publishers*. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 16th edition.
- [APSA Committee on Publications](#). 2006. *Style Manual for Political Science*: <http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/Publications/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>.

The library also provides training sessions for properly citing sources as well as sessions on reference management software, Endnote. The library also has a lot of resources and training sessions on conducting literature reviews, essay writing, and avoiding plagiarism. Please visit [this link](#) to see the updates on training topics and sessions taking place in the library:

Please read the [department's undergraduate handbook](#), which contains a lot of useful information about submission of written assignments and guidelines on writing essays.

Finally, please read the University's [plagiarism policy](#) to make sure that you are familiar with different types of plagiarism and avoid such situations in your submissions. Also see the links under Academic Integrity below for more resources.

Late work

All late work, unless excused **in advance by the module lecturer**, or justified by medical certificate or tutor's note, will be penalised at a rate of 5 marks per day. Under no circumstances will work be accepted after the set work has been marked and handed back to other students, or after the end of the second lecture term.

Make sure to save and back-up your work. Computer crashes or failure to back up your work will count as acceptable excuses for late work!

Course materials

We will draw read a number of chapters from the following books. A number of copies are available at the library.

- Dalton, Russell J. 2013. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 6th edition. (hereafter referred as **Dalton 2013**)
- Dalton, Russell. 2017. *The Participation Gap: Social Status and Political Inequality*. Oxford University Press. (hereafter referred as **Dalton 2017**)

- Norris, Pippa. 2003. *Democratic Phoenix: Reinventing Political Activism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (hereafter referred as **Norris**)

There are also other readings, which are available electronically, through the TCD journal arrangements or on the web. I will also make some readings (such as chapters from books not listed above) available through **Blackboard**. I will also post relevant blog posts, news stories, or videos to the Blackboard.

If you are not sure how to find the books in the stacks or use Library's electronic services and databases, you may attend the Library training sessions, or get in touch with our subject librarian, David Macnaughton: david.macnaughton@tcd.ie

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception. Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating on an exam or assignment, plagiarizing, representing someone else's work as your own, submitting work previously used without the informing and taking the consent of the instructor, fabricating of information or citations, etc. will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure and the matter will be reported to the student's tutor and the dean of the faculty; severe penalties are likely to ensue, including possible exclusion from the exam or even the College, in accordance with College policy.

- Please read pp. 45-47 of the [College Calendar](#) for University's plagiarism policy.
- General guidelines for students on avoiding plagiarism could be found in the [Library's online tutorial](#).
- The Library also has a [web page](#) with extensive resources about avoiding plagiarism and best practices about citations and referencing.

Disability policy

Students with a disability are encouraged to register with the [Disability Service](#) to seek supports where the disability could affect their ability to participate fully in all aspects of the course.

Lecture and reading schedule

We start by discussing the concept of political participation, identifying major trends in different forms of political participation, and surveying some facilitating factors and major individual-level approaches that explain who is more likely to participate in politics.

Week 1: Forms of political participation

What acts or actions count as political participation? How do we define political participation and distinguish it from other close concepts? What are the different forms of political participation?

Dalton 2013, chapter 3.

Teorell, Jan, Mariano Torcal, and Jose Ramon Montero. 2007. "Political Participation: Mapping the Terrain". In J. van Deth, J.R. Montero, and A. Westholm (eds.) *Citizenship and Involvement in European Democracies*. London: Routledge. p 334-358.

Recommended: Stolle, D., M. Hooghe, and M. Micheletti. 2005 "Politics in the Supermarket: Political Consumerism as a Form of Political Participation." *International Political Science Review* 26(3): 245-269.

DYNAMICS OF PARTICIPATION

Week 2: Institutions and political opportunities

Norris, chapter 4.

Dalton, Russell, Alix van Sicle, and Steven Weldon. 2010. "The Individual-Institutional Nexus of Protest Behavior." *British Journal of Political Science* 40(1): 51-73.

Week 3: Who participates? The civic voluntarism model

What drives people to engage in different forms of political acts? This week, we discuss the classical model of political participation, the civic voluntarism model and identify its strengths and weaknesses.

Dalton 2013, chapter 4.

Barkan, Steven. 2004. "Explaining Public Support for the Environmental Movement: A Civic Voluntarism Model." *Social Science Quarterly* 85(4): 913-937.

Recommended: Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2): pp. 271-294.

Week 4: Inequalities in political participation

How are the resources and motivations distributed across different groups in society and what are their implications for political participation? Does social class matter in political participation? Do minorities engage more or less in politics? What are the broader implications of these trends for democratic politics and representation?

Dalton, 2017, chapters 3 and 5.

Gallego, Aina. 2015. *Unequal Participation Worldwide*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Just, Aida. 2017. "Race, Ethnicity, and Political Behavior." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Online. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.238

Recommended: Erikson, Robert S. 2015. "Income Inequality and Policy Responsiveness." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 11-29.

Week 5: Who participates? Grievances and Political Mobilization

Anna Kern, Sofie Marien & Marc Hooghe. 2015. "Economic Crisis and Levels of Political Participation in Europe (2002–2010): The Role of Resources and Grievances." *West European Politics* 38(3): 465-490.

Hooghe, Marc, and Sofie Marien. 2013. "A Comparative Analysis of the Relation between Political Trust and Forms of Political Participation in Europe." *European Societies* 15(1): 131-152.

Van Stekelenburg, and Bert Klandermands. 2018. "In Politics We Trust...or Not? Trusting and Distrusting Demonstrators Compared." *Political Psychology* 39(4): 775-792.

DYNAMICS OF MOBILIZATION

We will start discussing other influences beyond individual-level resources and motivations. Individuals do not live and act in isolation, and most often our behaviour is influenced by the social and political context within which we operate. We will be surveying some major approaches to understanding the dynamics of political mobilization, starting with social capital theory and moving on to resource mobilization approaches.

Week 6: Resource mobilization

What are some of the agents and actors that mobilize individuals for participation? Can social media and internet substitute for traditional mobilizing agents and face-to-face interactions?

Norris, chapters 8 and 9.

Breuer, Anita, Todd Landman, and Dorothea Farquhar. 2015. "Social Media and Protest Mobilization: Evidence from the Tunisian Revolution." *Democratization* 22(4): 764-792.

Anduiza, Eva, Camilo Cristancho, and José M. Sabucedo. 2014. "Mobilization Through Online Social Networks: The Political Protest of the Indignados in Spain." *Information, Communication & Society*, 17:6: 750-764.

Week 7: Reading week

Week 8: Social capital and social networks

Dalton 2017, chapter 4.

Campbell, David E. 2013. "Social Networks and Political Participation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16 (1): 33-48.

Van Heelsum, Anja. 2005. "Political Participation and Civic Community of Ethnic Minorities in Four Cities in the Netherlands." *Politics* 25(1): 19-30.

Recommended: Putnam, Robert D. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Chapters 3 and 8. You can also watch Putnam's talk on social capital: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHZc-kcyQQ&t=9s>

Weeks 9 and 10: Social psychology of protest - Collective identity, values, and emotions (Note: 17 March Tuesday, Public Holiday)

Recently, scholars have gone beyond the discussions of resources or mobilizing agents and identified a number of social-psychological orientations such as collective identity, values and emotions that influence participation in politics.

For a good overview see: van Stekelenburg, Jacquelin and Bert Klandermans. 2013. "The Social Psychology of Protest." *Current Sociology Review* 61(5-6): 886-905.

Identity and self-esteem

Klandermans, Bert. 2014. "Identity Politics and Politicized Identities: Identity Processes and the Dynamics of Protest." *Political Psychology* 35 (1): 1-22.

McClendon, Gwyneth. 2014. "Social Esteem and Participation in Contentious Politics: A Field Experiment at an LGBT Pride Rally." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(2): 279- 290.

Emotions

Pearlman, Wendy. 2013. "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings." *Perspectives on Politics* 11(2): 387-409.

Aytac, Selim Erdem, Luis Schiumerini, and Susan Stokes. 2018. "Why do People Join Backlash Protests? Lessons from Turkey." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62(6): 1205-1228.

Values

Recommended: Dalton 2013, chapter 5.

**Weeks 11&12: Review and essay prep
(10 April Friday, Public Holiday)**