Comparative politics focuses on comparisons within or between countries, regions, or systems. In this course, we will focus on the links between public opinion, democratic politics, elections and public policy. Using both country-specific and cross-country analyses, we will discuss key themes, debates and concepts in the literature contrasting insights from empirical work in developed democracies with the emerging literature in developing democracies with particular attention to Latin American democracies.

Course Objectives

The course aims to introduce students to the main research paradigms in comparative political behavior; and, to advance training in doing original empirical research on political participation, voting, public opinion analysis, etc. in a comparative perspective.

Pre-requisites

Students should have a background in statistical inference (for example, FLS 5028, or a similar course) and multivariate regression analysis (for example, FLS 6183, or a similar course).

Course Requirements

Problem Sets and Quizzes 50%

Final Paper 50%

Bibliography

Books


Articles


Topics

1. Participation
2. Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations
3. Partisanship and Voting
4. Attitudes and Vote Choice
5. Representation
6. Performance and the Vote
7. Economic Crisis and Reform
8. Globalization and the Vote

Course Outline

Topic 1. Participation
Dalton, Chapters 3-4


Topic 2. Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations
Dalton, Chapter 5-6


Topic 3. Partisanship and Voting
Dalton, Chapters 7,8, 9


**Topic 4. Attitudes and Vote Choice**

Dalton, Chapter 10


**Topic 5. Representation**

Dalton, Chapter 11


**Topic 6. Performance and the Vote**


**Topic 7. Economic Crisis and Reform**


**Topic 8. Globalization**
