

Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas
Departamento de Ciência Política

FLS 6403 and FLP 0457

Comparative Politics: Public Opinion, Public Policy and Representation
1st semester / 2019
Lorena G Barberia

This course will be offered in English.

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. In the first part of the course, we will review the literature on opinion formation, considering the long and short-term influences that shape individual policy preferences. In the second part of the course, we will focus on aggregate public opinion and its response to public policies.

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, FLP 406, FLS 5028, or a similar course) and multivariate regression analysis (for example, FLP0468, FLS 6183, or a similar course).

Course Requirements

Class Participation 30%
Problem Sets 30%
Final Paper 40%

Topics

I. What short and long-term factors shape citizen's opinions about public policy?

1. Introduction and The Nature of Mass Beliefs
2. Participation
3. Identity, Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations
4. Partisanship
5. Attitudes and Political Behavior

II. How does public opinion shape public policies?

6. Representation: What does the public want of government policy?
7. Public Preferences: Government Approval
8. Public Responsiveness to Policy
9. Public Responsiveness and Policy Representation
10. Performance and the Vote
11. Economic Crisis and Reform
12. Globalization and the Vote

Course Outline and Topic Readings

I. What short and long-term factors shape citizen's opinions about public policy?

Topic 1. Introduction and The Nature of Mass Beliefs

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, Chapters 1-2.

Kellstedt, Paul M., and Guy D. Whitten. 2015. *Fundamentos da Pesquisa em Ciência Política* (Lorena Barberia, Gilmar Masiero and Patrick Cunha Silva, Translators). São Paulo, Brazil, Chapters 1-4

Topic 2. Participation

Carreras, Miguel, and Castañeda-Angarita, Néstor. "Who Votes in Latin America? A Test of Three Theoretical Perspectives." *Comparative Political Studies*, 2014, Vol.47(8), pp.1079-1104.

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, Chapters 3-4.

Desposato, Scott, and Barbara Norrander. 2009. "The Gender Gap in Latin America: Contextual and Individual Influences on Gender and Political Participation." *British Journal of Political Science* 39: 141-162.

Karp, Jeffrey A., and Susan A. Banducci. 2008. "Political Efficacy and Participation in Twenty-Seven Democracies: How Electoral Systems Shape Political Behaviour." *British Journal of Political Science* 38: 311-334.

Topic 3. Identity, Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations

Boas, Taylor, and Amy Erica Smith. Religion and the Latin American Voter. 2015. In *The Latin American Voter: Pursuing Representation and Accountability in Challenging Contexts*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, Chapters 5-6

Fearon, James. 1999. [What is Identity \(as we now use the word\)?](#) Stanford University.

Htun, Mala. 2004. Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups. *Perspectives on Politics* 2(3): pp. 439-458.

Topic 4. Partisanship

Baker, Andy, Barry Ames, Anand E. Sokhey, and Lucio R. Renno. 2016. "The Dynamics of Partisan Identification when Party Brands Change: The Case of the Workers Party in Brazil." *Journal of Politics* 78(1): 197-213.

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, Chapters 7-9.

Lupu, Noam. 2013. "Party Brands and Partisanship: Theory with Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Argentina." *American Journal of Political Science* 57 (1): 49-64.

Lupu, Noam. 2015. "Party Polarization and Mass Partisanship: A Comparative Perspective." *Political Behavior* 37 (2): 331-56.

Topic 5. Representation

Boas, Taylor, and Amy Erica Smith. Forthcoming. "Looks Like Me, Thinks Like Me: Descriptive Representation and Opinion Congruence in Brazil." *Latin American Research Review*.

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, Chapters 10-11.

Luna, Juan, and Elizabeth Zechmeister. 2005. "Political Representation in Latin America: A Study of Elite-Mass Congruence in Nine Countries." *Comparative Political Studies* 38: 388-416.

Saiegh, Sebastian M. 2015. "Using Joint Scaling Methods to Study Ideology and Representation: Evidence from Latin America." *Political Analysis* 23 (3): 363-384.

II. How does public opinion shape public policies?

Topic 6. What does the public want of government policy?

Erikson, Robert S., Michael MacKuen and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

Soroka, Stuart Neil and Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of democracy: Politics, Public Opinion, and Policy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1-3.

Topic 7. Public Response to Performance: Government Approval

Barberia, Lorena G., Natália de Paula Moreira and Guy D. Whitten. "Recessions and Presidential Approval: New Evidence from Brazil." Working Paper.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Suzanna De Boef and Tse-min Lin. 2004. "The Dynamics of the Partisan Gender Gap." *American Political Science Review*, 98(03), 515-528.

Clarke, Harold D., Marianne C. Stewart, Mike Ault, and Euel Elliott. 2005. "Men, Women and the Dynamics of Presidential Approval." *British Journal of Political Science* 35 (1):31-51.

Erikson, Robert S., Michael MacKuen and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2.

Topic 8. Public Responsiveness to Policy

Erikson, Robert S. 2015. "Income Inequality and Policy Responsiveness." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (1):11-29.

Kellstedt, Paul M., David A. M. Peterson, and Mark D. Ramirez. 2010. "The Macro Politics of a Gender Gap." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74 (3):477-498.

Soroka, Stuart Neil and Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of democracy: Politics, Public Opinion, and Policy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 4-6.

Topic 9. Public Preferences and Policy Representation

Castorena, Oscar, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2017. "Representing the national economic agenda in Latin America: Variation by fat and lean times and party brands." *Electoral Studies* 45:208-218.

Erikson, Robert S., Michael MacKuen and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 6.

Soroka, Stuart Neil and Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of democracy: Politics, Public Opinion, and Policy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 7-9.

Topic 10. Performance and the Vote

Duch, Raymond M., and Randy Stevenson. 2006. "Assessing the Magnitude of the Economic Vote over Time and across Nations." *Electoral Studies* 25 (3): 528-47.

Kam, Cindy D. 2009. "Gender and Economic Voting, Revisited." *Electoral Studies* 28 (4):615--624.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson and James A. Stimson. 1992. "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy." *American Political Science Review*. 86: 597-611.

Powell, G. Bingham, and Guy D. Whitten. 1993. "A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Voting: Taking Account of the Political Context." *American Journal of Political Science* 37 (2): 391-414.

Topic 11. Economic Crisis and Reform

Benton, Allyson. 2005. "Dissatisfied Democrats or Retrospective Voters? Economic Hardship, Political Institutions, and Voting Behavior in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 38(4):417-442.

Remmer, Karen L. 1991. "The Political Impact of Economic Crisis in Latin America in the 1980s." *The American Political Science Review* 85(3):777-800.

Stokes, Susan C. 1996. "Public Opinion and Market Reforms::The Limits of Economic Voting." *Comparative Political Studies* 29 (5):499-519.

Topic 12. Globalization

Alcañiz, I. and Hellwig, T. 2011. "Who's to Blame? The Distribution of Responsibility in Developing Democracies." *British Journal of Political Science* 41 (2): 389-411.

Campello, Daniela, and Cesar Zucco. 2016. "Presidential Success and the World Economy." *The Journal of Politics* 78(2):589-602.

Duch, Ray, and Randy Stevenson. 2010. "The Global Economy, Competency and the Economic Vote." *Journal of Politics* 72: 105-123.

Hellwig, Timothy, and Ryan Carlin. Forthcoming. "Policy Regimes and Economic Accountability in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies*.