COURSE DETAIL

PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
Country Ireland
Host Institution Trinity College Dublin
Program(s) Trinity College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science
UCEAP Course Number 117
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
UCEAP Transcript Title PUBLIC OPINION
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.70

Course Description
This course examines mass political attitudes and behavior from a comparative perspective. In the Fall term, students examine the nature of public opinion and key approaches and debates concerning its foundations. Topics include defining, measuring, and analyzing public opinion (sampling, questionnaire design, contextual sources of bias); citizen competence (information, sophistication, democratic norms and tolerance); and explaining public opinion (self-interest vs symbolic approaches, group interest models, political culture and values, role of elites, ideology, media and political communication, social networks). In the Spring term, students focus on political participation, and particularly voting behavior and cover the following topics: defining political participation, major theoretical debates in political behavior (rational choice models; social influence models; psychological models), explaining voter turnout, models of vote choice (strategic voting, sociological approaches, the Michigan model, retrospective and prospective evaluations, issue voting, candidate qualities, election campaigns and political communication), political protest, social capital and participation in voluntary organizations, and social movements.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PO3730

Host Institution Course Title
PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/undergraduate/module-outlines/js/public-op...

Host Institution Campus
Trinity College Dublin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Political Science

Course Last Reviewed
2018-2019

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