

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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