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 Campus
Trinity College Dublin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Political Science

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