

## 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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