

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science

UCEAP Course Number

113

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

POL BEHV W DEMOCIES

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The aim of this course is to be able to apply the theoretical and conceptual knowledge to understanding and resolving some key contemporary issues in the behavior of citizens in advanced democracies. At the end of the course, students are able to provide original answers to questions like: Why do people vote for this party, or that party, or at all? How do people make sense of politics? What is the link between citizens' actions and beliefs and the democratic vitality of political systems? How is it possible to measure the quality of democracy? The course is divided into two parts. The first part [16 seminars] introduces students to the acquisition of basic conceptual and theoretical tools for the study of public opinion and political behavior in comparative perspective. It focuses in particular on the nature of mass beliefs, values, and ideological orientation; the determinants of electoral participation and vote choice; competing theories of political representation; and the role of citizens in the democratic process today. The second part (14 seminars) is in turn divided into two separate thematic tracks. It is organized in a seminar format and is more specifically aimed at applying and deepening the knowledge acquired during the first part of the course. The division of students between thematic tracks is coordinated during the first part of the course. The two thematic tracks deal in turn with: (1) elections as "beauty contests", and (2) elections as "hate games". More details about each of these thematic tracks are provided to students during the first part of the course.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

92592

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

LT in POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENCES

Host Institution Department

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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