

**Political Behaviour**

Code: 101075  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OB	3	1

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

**Contact**

Name: Eva Anduiza Perea  
Email: Eva.Anduiza@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Teachers**

Beatriz Elias Valverde

**Prerequisites**

Students should have acquired basic concepts of Political Science and Research Methods. They must be able read English texts and work with spreadsheets.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The course has three objectives:

- To know the basic elements that characterize political and electoral behaviour in democratic contexts
- To be able to use theories and variables that explain how citizens think and act in politics
- To know and be able to use the main methods and data available for the analysis of political behaviour

**Competences**

- Analysing the behaviour of the political actors, both individually and collectively (parties, interest groups, social movements, etc.).
- Analysing the electoral processes, including campaigns, parties' electoral strategies, political scenarios and analysis and interpretation of electoral results.
- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
- Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
- Demonstrating the comprehension of citizen behaviour and democratic values, particularly in internal or international concrete cases.
- Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.

- Explaining political, individual and collective attitudes and behaviours, as well as the education process and expression of political preferences.
- Identifying and distinguishing the functioning of the electoral processes.
- Identifying main actors of the political system, inspecting their interactions and assessing their behaviour in their environment and in the political system from a theoretical and practical perspective.
- Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
- Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Managing the different theoretical contributions about actors and actor's networks, as well as the characteristics of collective action.
- Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
- Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
- Working autonomously.
- Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
- Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the behaviour of the political actors, both individually and collectively (parties, interest groups, social movements, etc.).
2. Analysing the electoral processes, including campaigns, parties' electoral strategies, political scenarios and analysis and interpretation of electoral results.
3. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
4. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
5. Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
6. Explaining political, individual and collective attitudes and behaviours, as well as the education process and expression of political preferences.
7. Identifying and distinguishing the functioning of the electoral processes.
8. Identifying main actors of the political system, inspecting their interactions and assessing their behaviour in their environment and in the political system from a theoretical and practical perspective.
9. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
10. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
11. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
12. Managing the different theoretical contributions about actors and actor's networks, as well as the characteristics of collective action.
13. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
14. Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
15. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
16. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
17. Working autonomously.
18. Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
19. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

## Content

The course is structured in different types of sessions: theory, lab sessions, seminars and cases. Each session is assigned a compulsory reading and one or two additional optional readings, which should be done preferably before the corresponding class, indicated in the calendar. Compulsory readings are the basis for the preparation of the contents of the exam.

## Theory

These are sessions focused on conceptual and theoretical aspects. They

- 1. Political participation. Type of participation. Who participates, how and why?
- 2. Values and attitudes. Attitudes: origin, coherence and change. Value systems.
- 3. Elections. Functions. Second-order elections Electoral indicators. Electoral systems.
- 4. The explanation of the vote. Social position and vote: The sociological approach.
- 4. The explanation of the vote. Values, Ideology, and Voting: The Psychological approach.
- 5. The explanation of the vote. Rational choice and voting: Rationality and Irrationality.

### Seminars

From a reading that must be prepared on the day of the class, we will work on

- S1. What support does the monarchy have?
- S2. Do social networks polarize us?
- S3. Who is protesting?
- S4. Does voting make us happy?
- S5. Second order elections
- S5. Interpretation of graphs

## Lab sessions

In the computer room, data on political behavior will be analyzed, operationalizing concepts and testing theoretical models.

- P1. Surveys, inference, errors and sampling. Survey type. Survey expectations.
- P2. Electoral indicators. Using the Excel program, the calculation of the indicators.
- P3. Explanation of vote. We will work with survey data to build a voting model.

## Cases

Application of theoretical concepts and explanatory models to the analysis of specific cases.

- C1. Gender and political behavior. The 8M. Causes and consequences.
- C2. Populism. Conceptualize, measure and explain complex attitudes. Ideology.
- C3. To be defined (Covid, Elections in the world)

## Methodology

Classroom sessions are divided into four types

- Theory classes where the professors present content.
- Practical application of theory content either in the usual classroom (seminars). Each session revolves around a reading that will be discussed.
- Lab sessions with data analysis. These sessions are the basis of the continuous evaluation and one of them is further developed into the final essay.
- Sessions where both theoretical and practical elements are used to analyze a specific case.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and presentations	36	1.44	3, 4, 13, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16
Practical sessions and seminars	19	0.76	3, 11, 9, 14, 15, 18, 17, 19, 16
Type: Supervised			
Evaluation	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 8, 7, 14, 15, 17
Tutorials	15	0.6	3, 11, 8, 7, 14, 15, 17, 16
Type: Autonomous			
Compulsory readings and readings related to the practical sessions	30	1.2	8, 9, 7, 10, 15, 17
Study of the theory presented in class	30	1.2	1, 3, 11, 8, 7, 10, 15, 17, 16
Writing of practical exercises	15	0.6	11, 15, 18, 17, 19, 16

## Assessment

Final exam (50%). The exam involves a test of 30 questions (30%) and a short essay commenting a table or graph (20%)

Exercise in the lab (30%). The result of the work during the class will be handed in. No late submissions will be accepted.

Final essay (20%). The final essay will consist of the development of one of the practices or a research question related to the content of the subject. Details will be explained in class.

In accordance with article 117.2 of the UAB rules, students that are re-taking this course may be evaluated with a single exam. If you want to follow this kind of evaluation inform the professors at the beginning of the academic year.

To pass the course students need a minimum overall grade of 5/10, with a minimum grade of 4/10 in the exam.

Compensatory evaluation

Students will have the right to a compensatory evaluation only if the following conditions are met:

- Having a grade of 3/10 or above on the exam test.
- Having a grade of 5/10 or above in the lab exercises.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Classroom exercises	30%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 6, 13, 11, 8, 9, 7, 10, 14, 15, 18, 17, 19, 16

Final essay	20%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 6, 11, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 17, 19, 16
Final exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 6, 11, 8, 7, 14, 15

## Bibliography

### Compulsory readings

- Anduiza Perea, E., & Bosch, A. (2004). *Comportamiento político y electoral*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Colombo, C., Galais, C., & Gallego, A. (2012). El uso de internet y las actitudes políticas: Datos cuantitativos y cualitativos de España. *Arbor*, 188(756), 751-766. <https://doi.org/10.3989/arbor.2012.756n4009>
- Enrique Hernández, Margarita Torre & Antoni-Italo De Moragas (2021) The crown: a survey about the Spanish monarchy, *Political Research Exchange*, 3:1, DOI: 10.1080/2474736X.2021.1938149
- Guinjoan, M. (2016). Per què fallen les enquestes? *Eines* 27, 71-80.
- Mariano Torcal, Toni Rodon & María José Hierro (2016) Word on the Street: The Persistence of Leftist-dominated Protest in Europe, *West European Politics*, 39:2, 326-350, DOI: 10.1080/01402382.2015.1068525
- Pallarés, Riba, Fraile (2007). Variables socioestructurales y comportamiento electoral en las elecciones generales españolas. Una perspectiva evolutiva 1979-2000. *Revista de Estudios Políticos*, 109-158.
- Penadés, A. (2015). Especial encuestas: errores, cocina y predicción. In *Zoom Político* 25, 1-19.
- Pérez Nievas, Bonet (2006). Identidades regionales y reivindicación de autogobierno. El etnorregionalismo en el voto a partidos nacionalistas de Bélgica, España y Reino Unido. *Revista Española de Ciencia Política*, 15 123-161
- Reif, K., Schmitt, H. and NORRIS, P. (1997), Second-order elections. *European Journal of Political Research*, 31: 109-124. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6765.1997.tb00768.x>
- Sanders, D. (1995). Behavioral Analysis. In *Theory and Methods in Political Science* (pp. 23-41)
- Ward, G. (2020). Happiness and Voting: Evidence from Four Decades of Elections in Europe. *American Journal of Political Science* 64(3): 504-518

### General references

- Arzheimer, K., Evans, J., & Lewis-Beck, M. (2017). *The Sage Handbook of Electoral Behaviour*. London: Sage.
- Dalton, R. J. (2014). *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press.
- Dalton, R. J., & Klingemann, H.-D. (2007). *Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Verge, T. (2014). "Comportamiento político". En *Ciencia Política con Perspectiva de Género*. Madrid: Akal
- Downs, A. 1992. "Una teoría económica de la democracia". En *Diez textos básicos de ciencia política*. Ariel.

### Additional readings

To go deeper into some questions or for the final essay.

### *Surveys and experiments*

- Anspach, N. M., Jennings, J. T., & Arceneaux, K. (2019). "A Little Bit of Knowledge: Facebook's News Feed and Self-Perceptions of Knowledge". *Research & Politics*, 6(1): 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168018816189>
- Sniderman, Paul M. (2011): "The Logic and Design of the Survey Experiment. An Autobiography of a Methodological Innovation", in Druckman et al. (editors), *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*: 102-114. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Tormos, R. (2014). *Aspectes metodològics de l'enquesta online amb experiments*. Barcelona: Centre d'Estudis d'Opinió.

### *Participation*

- Dalton, R. J. (2014). *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press. Capítols 3 (political participation) i 4 (protest politics).
- Armingeon, K., & Schädel, L. (2015). "Social Inequality in Political Participation: The Dark Sides of

Individualisation". *West European Politics*, 38(1): 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2014.929341>

Font, J., Navarro, C., & Wojcieszak, M. (2012). *Preferencias de la ciudadanía española sobre las formas de decisión política y sus factores explicativos*. Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas. Capítols 1 i 2.

Gallego, A., San, J., & Cristancho, C. (2010). "La movilización política: medición y relevancia". *Revista Española de Ciencia Política*, 23: 113-124.

Klandermans, B., & van Stekelenburg, J. (2013). "The Social Psychology of Protest". *Current Sociology*, 61(5-6): 886-905.

Rodon, T., & Guinjoan, M. (2018). "Mind the Protest Gap: The Role of Resources in the Face of Economic Hardship". *PS - Political Science and Politics*, 51(1): 84-92.

Theocharis, Y., & Van Deth, J. W. (2018). "The Continuous Expansion of Citizen Participation: A New Taxonomy". *European Political Science Review*, 10(1): 139-163.

Torcal, M., Rodon, T., & Hierro, M. J. (2016). "Word on the Street: The Persistence of Leftist-dominated Protest in Europe". *West European Politics*, 39: 326-350.

Trujillo, M., & Gómez, B. (2016). *Urnas vacías en los suburbios de las ciudades*. Barcelona: Observatorio Social La Caixa

### *Attitudes*

Dalton, R. J. (2014). *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press. Capítols 2 (mass beliefs) 5 (values in change), 6 (issues and ideological orientations) i 12 (citizens and democratic process)

Converse, P. E. (1964). "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics". *Critical Review*, 18(1): 1-74.

Fernbach, P. M., Rogers, T., Fox, C. R., & Sloman, S. A. (2013). "Political Extremism Is Supported by an Illusion of Understanding". *Psychological Science*, 24(6): 939-946. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797612464058>

Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Capítol 1 (en castellano, publicado por el CIS)

Prior, M. (2018). *Hooked. How Politics Captures People's Interest*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Capítol 1.

Shively, W. P. (1979). "The Development of Party Identification among Adults: Exploration of a Functional Model". *The American Political Science Review*, 73(4): 1039-1054.

Shorrocks, R. (2016). "A Feminist Generation? Cohort Change in Gender-Role Attitudes and The Second-Wave Feminist Movement". *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 30(1): 125-145.

Romero, X. (2018). "Una opinió pública termostàtica. L'efecte de les crisis econòmiques i l'acció governamental en les preferències de polítiques públiques a Catalunya". *Quaderns de l'ICPS*, 1-9.

VVAA. (2015). *Informe sobre la democracia en España 2015*. Madrid: Fundación Alternativas. Capítol 2: "El descontento con el funcionamiento de la democracia en España"

### *Elections*

Dalton, R. J. (2014). *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press. Capítol 7

Blais, A., & Anduiza, E. (2013). "Voter Turnout". In R. Valelly (Ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Oxford: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0066

Iyengar, S., Sood, G., & Lelkes, Y. (2012). "Affect, Not Ideology". *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 76(3): 405-431.

Medina, L. (2015). Les eleccions al Parlament de Catalunya del 27S. Polarització en clau identitària i divisió de l'electorat. *Quaderns de l'ICPS*, (11), 1-11. [https://www.icps.cat/archivos/Quaderns/q11\\_cat.pdf](https://www.icps.cat/archivos/Quaderns/q11_cat.pdf)

Nai, A. (2020). "Going Negative, Worldwide: Towards a General Understanding of Determinants and Targets of Negative Campaigning". *Government and Opposition*, 55(3): 430-455. <https://doi.org/10.1017/gov.2018.32>

Westwood, S. J., Iyengar, S., Malhotra, N., Lelkes, Y., & Levendusky, M. (2018). The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051117-073034>

### *Vote*

Dalton, R. J. (2014). *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press. Capítols 8 (social bases of party support), 9 (partisanship and electoral behavior) i 10 (attitudes and electoral behavior)

Astudillo, J., & Rodon, T. (2013). "El comportamiento electoral del votante en la mediana y las «paradojas» de la competición política española / The Electoral Behaviour of the Median Voter and the 'Paradoxes' of Spanish

Political Competition". *Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas*, 144: 3-21.  
<https://doi.org/10.5477/cis/reis.144.3>

Equipo Piedras de Papel. (2015). *Aragón es nuestro Ohio: así votan los españoles*. Barcelona: Malpaso. Capítols 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 i 10

Barberá, P. (2018). "Explaining the Spread of Misinformation on Social Media: Evidence from the 2016 US Presidential Election". *APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter*, 1-5.

Carmines, E. G., & Stimson, J. A. (1980). "The Two Faces of Issue Voting". *The American Political Science Review*, 74 (1): 78-91

Garzia, D. (2017). "Voter Evaluation of Candidates and Party Leaders". In Arzheimer, K., Evans, J., and Lewis-Beck, M. (eds.). *Sage Handbook of Electoral Behavior*. London: Sage. 633-653.

Johnston, R. (2015). "Election Campaigns". *Sage Handbook of Electoral Behavior*. London: Sage

Kinder, D. R., & Kiewiet, D. R. (1981). "Sociotropic Politics: The American Case". *British Journal of Political Science*, 11(2): 129-161.

Pallarés, F., Riba, C., & Fraile, M. (2007). "Variables socioestructurales y comportamiento electoral en las elecciones generales españolas. Una perspectiva evolutiva 1979-2000". *Revista de Estudios Políticos*, 135, 109-158.

Winter, N. J. G. (2018). *Ambivalent Sexism and Election 2016*. Unpublished

## Software

Jamovi, Excel