

Electoral Analysis

Code: 106742
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Political Science and Public Management	OB	3

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Students should have completed the compulsory subjects of Methodology of Political Analysis and Political Behavior.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this course is to provide students with theoretical and practical tools to analyze the electoral processes and the various elements and actors involved: electoral systems, campaigns, candidates and voters.

This is a natural continuation of the course 'Political behavior' of the second year, which presents the current state of research in electoral behavior combined with a more applied aspect of analysis and electoral strategy.

Competences

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- 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.
- Assess the social, economic and environmental impact when acting in this field of knowledge.
- 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.
- Develop critical thought and reasoning and be able to communicate them effectively, both in your own language and second or third languages.
- Develop strategies for autonomous learning.
- 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.
- Make changes to the methods and processes of the area of knowledge to provide innovative responses to the needs and wishes of society.
- 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.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- 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. Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
2. Analysing the behaviour of the political actors, both individually and collectively (parties, interest groups, social movements, etc.).
3. Analysing the electoral processes, including campaigns, parties' electoral strategies, political scenarios and analysis and interpretation of electoral results.
4. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
5. Assess the social, economic and environmental impact when acting in this field of knowledge.
6. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
7. Designing data collection techniques, coordinating the information processing and meticulously applying hypothesis verification methods.
8. Develop critical thought and reasoning and be able to communicate them effectively, both in your own language and second or third languages.
9. Develop strategies for autonomous learning.
10. Explaining political, individual and collective attitudes and behaviours, as well as the education process and expression of political preferences.
11. Identifying and distinguishing the functioning of the electoral processes.
12. 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.

13. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
14. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
15. Make changes to the methods and processes of the area of knowledge to provide innovative responses to the needs and wishes of society.
16. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
17. Managing the different theoretical contributions about actors and actor's networks, as well as the characteristics of collective action.
18. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
19. Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
20. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
21. Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
22. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
23. Working autonomously.
24. Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
25. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

Content

Day	Code	Topic	Graded
16/9/25	T1	Introduction and models of political behavior	
19/9/25	T2	Polls and electoral prediction	
23/9/25	T3	Electoral systems	
26/9/25	P1	Electoral systems simulation	Sí
30/9/25		La comunitaria (no class)	
3/10/25	T1.1	Tutorial FP: research question	Sí
7/10/25	T1.2	Tutorial FP: research question	Sí
10/10/25	T4	Dealingment	
14/10/25	T5	Realignment and class voting	
17/10/25	T6	Corruption	
21/10/25	L1	Corruption readings	Sí
24/10/25	T2.1	Tutorial FP: theoretical framework	Sí
28/10/25	T2.2	Tutorial FP: theoretical framework	Sí
31/10/25	T7	Referendums	
4/11/25	L2	Referendum reading	Sí
7/11/25	T8	Vote and democratic backsliding	
11/11/25	L3	Vote and democratic backsliding readings	Sí

14/11/25	T3.1	Tutorial FP: data and methods	Sí
18/11/25	T3.2	Tutorial FP: data and methods	Sí
21/11/25	T9	Extreme right	
25/11/25	P2	R introduction	No
28/11/25	T10	Gender, age and political behavior	
2/12/25	L4	Extreme right and gender	Sí
5/12/25	P3	Extreme right voting	Sí
9/12/25	T11	Climate change	
12/12/25	T12	Rural-urban cleavage	
16/12/25	P4	Rural-urban cleavage	Sí

	T: THEORY / LECTURE
	P: DATA LAB
	T: FINAL PAPER TUTORIAL
	L: READING LAB

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Preparation and writing of a research paper	0	0	1, 2, 3, 9, 7, 17, 10, 18, 16, 13, 11, 14, 15, 20, 23, 25
Type: Supervised			
In-class exercises	0	0	1, 21, 5, 2, 3, 4, 9, 8, 17, 10, 12, 13, 11, 14, 15, 20, 25
Supervision of the research paper with the professor (4 sessions of 20 minutes each)	0	0	21, 2, 3, 4, 17, 12, 13, 11, 14, 20, 24, 25, 22

Lab sessions will be divided in three different types of activities:

- In group writing of a research paper. This includes 3 tutorials with the professor in order to assess the evolution of the research paper.
- Tools and exercises for survey data analysis. 4 sessions of applied data analysis using R and excel
- Discussion of readings. 4 sessions in which students are required to read a paper in order to critically discuss the paper in class.

Note: 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.

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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final essay	25	50	2	1, 21, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 8, 7, 17, 10, 18, 16, 12, 13, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 23, 25, 22
Final exam	45	50	2	1, 21, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 8, 7, 17, 10, 18, 16, 12, 13, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 23, 25, 22
In-class exercises	30	50	2	1, 21, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 8, 7, 17, 10, 18, 16, 12, 13, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 23, 25, 22

Continous assesment:

Final exam(45%)

Final paper (25%) * Divided between:

- Essay (20%)
- Attendance and evaluation of tutorials (5%)

The essay must be handed in on the day of the exam. If you do not hand in the assignment you will not be allowed to take the exam.

In class-exercises (30%)

Divided between:

- 3 data analysis exercises (15%)
- Reading and discussion of 3 readings and submission of 3 discussion handouts (15%)

Single (one-shot) assesment

Final exam (70%). Divided as follows:

- Content of theoretical classes (40%)
- Test on the articles covered in the reading seminars (15%)
- Test on interpreting results of data analysis on electoral behavior (15%)

Final paper to be done individually (30%).

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In all cases, to pass the course it is necessary to obtain at least a 5/10 in both the final exam and the final paper.

Students who do not sit the exam or do not submit the paper will receive a grade of "not assessable."

Resit:

All students may take the resit exam and/or resubmit the paper on the day of the resit exam. In this case, the final grade for the course will be determined by this last exam or submission.

If the paper has not been submitted previously and is presented directly on the day of the resit exam, a penalty of -25% will be applied to the paper's grade.

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AI USE

Model 2 - Restricted use: "For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction or translations, understanding and improving R scripts, enhancing certain features of analyses in R (for example, graphical representation of results), as well as for proofreading and spelling and grammar correction. The student must clearly identify which parts were generated with this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these tools influenced the process and the final outcome of the activity. Failure to transparently disclose the use of AI in this graded activity will be considered academic dishonesty and may result in partial or total penalties on the activity's grade, or more severe sanctions in serious cases."

Bibliography

Essential

Arzheimer, K., Evans, J., Lewis-Beck, M.S., 2017. *The SAGE handbook of electoral behaviour*. SAGE.
Anduiza, Eva y Bosch, Agustí. 2004 *Comportamiento político y electoral*. Barcelona: Ariel

Dalton, Russell J. 2018. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. CQ Press.

Fraile, Marta, & Hernández, Enrique (2020). Determinants of voting behaviour. En D. Muro & I. Lago (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*. Oxford University Press. Complementaria

Riba, Clara. 2000. "Voto Dual Y Abstención Diferencial. Un Estudio Sobre El Comportamiento Electoral En Cataluña." *Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas* 91: 59-88.

Rose-Ackerman, Susan. 2008. "Corrupció política i reforma en sistemes democràtics: perspectives teòriques". A *Corruption and Clientelism*, Junichi Kawata (Ed.), pp 61-81 Kyoto: Minerva Ltd.

Riera, Pedro. 2009. *L'evolució Del Vot Dual a Catalunya*. Institut de Ciències Polítiques i Socials, Working paper 278.

Verge, Tània. 2012. "Les quotes: són necessàries". *Revista Interdisciplinar de Estudios de Género* 2: 21-31. La bibliografia obligatòria per a seminaris i pràctiques es lliurarà a l'inici del curs.

Software

For the computer data analysis lab-sessions we will use the open-source software R and R Studio and Excel

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon