

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

ESADE  
Spring 2021

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<b>Instructor:</b> Emmy Lindstam	<b>Time:</b> Tuesdays
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:emmyolivia.lindstam@esade.edu">emmyolivia.lindstam@esade.edu</a>	15:30-17:30
<b>Classroom:</b> Online (Zoom)	

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Is democracy in crisis? Why has politics become so polarized? Why are there still so few women in political leadership roles? Why do the poor often vote for right-wing parties? These are a sample of questions which political scientists engage with and attempt to provide answers to. In this course, students will learn about key concepts and theoretical approaches in political science, acquiring different analytical tools to help analyze the political world from a scientific perspective.

The purpose of this course is to offer a broad and general introduction to the field of political science, including an overview of its main sub-fields, core concepts and theoretical approaches. Throughout the course, we will identify different empirical puzzles and discuss theoretical explanation provided by political science. The course will be composed of three main parts. **Part I** covers key concepts of political science such as power, nation and democracy. **Part II** narrows in on the topic of political representation and provides normative and empirical perspectives on why the inclusion of women and minorities in political assemblies makes a difference. Finally, **Part III** covers the topic of political behaviour, paying particular attention to attitudes and behaviour in contexts of ethnic diversity.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:** At the end of this course, students should be familiar with key concepts of political science, be able to identify main issues or puzzles in the field and have a general understanding of different methods available to tackle these questions. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Define important concepts and theories.
- Summarize, compare, and contextualize different theoretical arguments.
- Apply important concepts and theories to current societal challenges and events.
- Develop and formulate their own research questions based on theoretical or empirical puzzles.
- Show a general understanding of the different types of measures and approaches available for theory testing.

**COURSE OVERVIEW****PART I: Varieties of Democracy – Institutions and Processes**

**Session 1 (9/2)** What is Political Science? Central Concepts and Approaches

**Session 2 (16/2)** Regime Types and Democratization

**Session 3 (23/2)** Varieties of Democracy

**PART II: Political Representation**

**Session 4 (2/3)** Social Cleavages and Political Parties

**Session 5 (9/3)** Representation and Political Equality

**Session 6 (16/3)** Institutions and the Quality of Representation

**PART III: Political Behaviour**

**Session 7 (22/3)** Values, Emotions, Information and Political Attitudes

**Session 8 (6/4)** Political Behaviour in Context

**Session 9 (13/4)** Diversity and Democracy

**Additional Sessions**

**Session 10 (20/4)** Poster Session

**Session 11 (27/4)** Final Session

## REQUIREMENTS

### Final Assessment (50%)

- Term paper (~ 3000 words)

### Continuous Assessment (50%)

- Class participation and submission of discussion questions (15%)
- Three short quizzes (15%)
- Research Poster (20%)

**Class Attendance:** The minimum required assistance required to submit the final assessment is 80%. The minimal required assistance required to submit the retake assessment is 50%.

**Class Set-Up:** Each session will be divided roughly into two parts. The first part of the session will be lecture-style (although questions and discussions are welcome). We will cover material from the readings and discuss examples. The second part of the session will be more discussion based. We will go over the discussion questions you submit, exchange ideas and doubts and do short exercises together.

### Detailed Requirements:

1. **Readings:** In preparation for each session, you are expected to read the mandatory readings before class so that you attend the seminar prepared. In addition, I list helpful background readings, including books and journal articles, that relate to the core readings. You should be aware that some of the readings rely on more advanced quantitative methods. You are not being asked to grasp these in detail. Nevertheless, you should make sure that you can identify the questions the authors are asking and the arguments they are propounding.
2. **Discussion Questions:** You are required to submit a discussion question before one session of each part/block (a total of **three** discussion questions). You can pick which session within the block you would like to contribute a discussion question to. The discussion question (alongside a short motivation of a sentence or two) should be posted in the corresponding discussion forum on moodle by **21:00 the night before class**. These questions are thought to encourage you to critically read and evaluate the readings and “kick off” the in-class discussions.
3. **Quizzes:** There are going to be **three** short quizzes (5-10 questions) on the readings. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and short open-ended questions. The quizzes cover the material of the previous block and are intended to provide me with better feedback as to whether you understand and follow the course content. On these quizzes, you only receive a pass or fail grade. If you have done the readings and attended class, you shouldn't encounter any problems answering the questions. The quizzes will be made available on moodle after the last session of the block, giving you about a week to participate.
4. **Research Poster:** You will be asked to prepare a research poster on a theme of your choosing. This could involve contrasting different measures of democracy, or comparing different countries with respect to the policies they have in place to improve the representation

of disadvantaged groups. Creativity is welcome! The details of this assignment will be covered in class and we will have a virtual poster session where you can learn about each other's topics. You can work independently or in groups of 2, and you are encouraged to confirm the topic with me.

5. **Term Paper:** The final assessment is a term paper in the form of a question-based literature review covering one of the "puzzles" we discussed in class. The idea is to systematically describe and contrast different theoretical arguments which provide answers to this specific puzzle.

- I strongly recommend you to confirm the final topic with me.
- I will evaluate the final essay with respect to five criteria. For each criterion you get up to three points. I also reserve the right to give extra credit if you handle parts of your term paper exceptionally well (max. of three points).
  - (a) Language, form and style (including a proper and consistent citation style)
  - (b) Conciseness/Organization: Do you present your argument logically with attention to internal consistency? Have you been selective in your choice of included items?
  - (c) Purposeful and correct summary of the reviewed readings: Did you understand the authors' key points correctly? Do you provide clear descriptions of relevant conceptual arguments and theoretical approaches?
  - (d) Comparison of the studies' findings and methods: Do you assess issues raised by potentially competing information or alternative perspectives?
  - (e) Critical reflection: Do you analyze the strength and weaknesses of the reviewed literature? Do you provide a conclusion about how accurate, complete, and conclusive the consulted literature is with regard to your research question?
- The total amount of points you can get is  $15 + 3 = 18$ . You have to get at least 9 points to pass the final examination.

### Important Dates:

Quiz 1 .....	March 3, 2021; 23:59
Quiz 2 .....	March 24, 2021; 23:59
Quiz 3 .....	April 21, 2021; 23:59
Poster Session .....	April 20, 2021
Term Paper .....	May 20, 2021; 23:59

**Zoom etiquette:**

- Please mute the audio on entry
- Please use your regular names
- Please turn on your video (unless you experience a bandwidth problem)
- Raise your virtual hand to ask or answer a question
- When invited to say something, please remember to unmute and turn on your video
- Please do not watch videos, listen to music, or use other applications (other than note-taking apps) while attending class
- Please do not take any recordings of the sessions

**Communication with the Instructor** When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these three sources for an answer before reaching out to me:

1. Course syllabus
2. Announcements on Moodle
3. General Discussion Forum on Moodle

This will help you in potentially identifying answers before I can get back to you. If you cannot find an answer to your question, please first post your question in the general discussion forum. Here your question can be answered to the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question, or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance. If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email. I will usually respond to messages from 8am to 5pm on weekdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond.

**Suggestions and Feedback:** Both concerns and suggestions for improvement are always welcome! You can approach me with feedback at any time. If you need assistance with any of the course materials, do not hesitate to contact me via email.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### PART I: VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY – INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

#### 1. Session 1: What is Political Science? Central Concepts and Approaches

*What is political science and what kind of questions do political scientists study? How can we develop scientific explanations to political phenomena? In this session, we will discuss central concepts in political science such as power, the state, the nation, institutions, and political identity. We will also introduce the notion of a “puzzle” and discuss common puzzles in political science.*

##### Mandatory readings

- Robert O. Keohane. “Political Science as a Vocation”. 2009. *Political Science and Politics*, 42(2): 359-363
- Patrick O’Neil. 2018. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. Norton & Company.  
**Chapter 1**

##### Recommended readings

- Steven Lukes. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. Springer. **Chapter 1**
- Peter Hall and Rosemary Taylor. 1996. “Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms”. *Political Studies*. 44(5): 936-957
- William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. 2018. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press. **Chapters 1 & 2**

#### 2. Session 2: Regime Types and Democratization

*How do democracies die? Drawing on current examples, we discuss the process of democratic backsliding. We discuss what makes a country “democratic” in the first place and how we might measure a country’s level of democracy. We engage with the question why some countries are more democratic than others, and why democracy matters.*

##### Mandatory readings

- Daniele Caramani. 2020. *Comparative Politics*. Oxford University Press.  
**Chapters 5 & 6**
- Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. 2019. *How Democracies Die*. Crown.  
**Chapter 1**

##### Recommended readings

- Adam Przeworski. 2019. *Crises of Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Jennifer Ghandi. 2014. “Authoritarian Elections and Regime Change”. In, *Comparing Democracies 4*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.
- Patrick O’Neil. 2018. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. Norton & Company.  
**Chapter 2, 6 & 6**
- William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. 2018. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press. **Chapters 6 & 7**

### 3. Session 3: Varieties of Democracy

What are “institutions” and how do these vary across different democratic systems? In this session, we discuss different models of democracy, distinguishing between parliamentary, presidential and semi-presidential democracies. We also classify different electoral system types and discuss the political consequences of different electoral rules.

#### Mandatory readings

- Michael Gallagher. 2014. “Electoral Institutions and Representation”. In, *Comparing Democracies 4*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.
- William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. 2018. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. CQ Press. **Chapter 13**

#### Recommended readings

- Pippa Norris. 2009. *Electoral Engineering. Voting Rules and Political Behavior*. Cambridge University Press. **Chapters 2**
- Josep M. Colomer. 2011. “Comparative Constitutions”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, ed. by Robert E. Goodin. Oxford University Press.
- Karen Ferree, G. Bingham Powell and Ethan Scheiner. 2014. “Context, Electoral Rules, and Party Systems”. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 17:421-439.

## PART II: POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

### 4. Session 4: Social Cleavages and Political Parties

Why do certain countries have some political parties and not others? When do new political parties emerge? In this session, we introduce the notion of “social cleavages” and discuss why certain cleavages become salient in certain contexts and not others, and what implications this has for party systems. We also discuss the emergence of new social cleavages in the age of globalization and link this to the rise of far-right parties.

#### Mandatory readings

- Daniele Caramani. 2020. “Party Systems”. In *Comparative Politics*, ed. by Daniele Caramani. Oxford University Press.
- Robert Ford and Will Jennings. 2020. “The Changing Cleavage Politics of Western Europe”. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 23: 295-314

#### Recommended readings

- Russell J. Dalton. 2002. “Political Cleavages, Issues and Electoral Change”. In *Comparing Democracies 2*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.
- Abdul Noury and Gerard Roland. 2020. “Identity Politics and Populism in Europe”. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 23: 421-439
- Pradeep Chhibber and Mariano Torcal. 1997. “Elite Strategy, Social Cleavages and Party Systems in a New Democracy”. *Comparative Political Studies*. 30(1): 27-54
- Herbert Kitschelt. 2014. “Parties and Party Systems”. In *Comparing Democracies 4*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.

### 5. Session 5: Representation and Political Equality

Why are certain groups, such as women, underrepresented in politics? How do we evaluate if representation is "fair"? In this session, we discuss the role of representation for the functioning of representative democracy and cover different types of representation and sources of accountability. We will then introduce the notion of "descriptive representation" and discuss why the political representation of women and minorities in political assemblies makes a difference.

#### Mandatory readings

- Anne Phillips. 1995. *The Politics of Presence*. Clarendon Press. **Chapter 2**
- Jennifer Wolak. 2020. "Self-Confidence and Gender Gaps in Political Interest, Attention, and Efficacy". *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4): 1490-1501

#### Recommended readings

- Jennifer L. Lawless. 2015. "Female Candidates and Legislators". *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18: 349-366.
- Lena Wägerud. 2009. "Women in Parliaments. Descriptive and Substantive Representation". *Annual Review of Political Science*. 12: 51-69
- Daniel M. Butler and David E. Broockman. 2011. "Do Politicians Racially Discriminate against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators". *American Political Science Review*. 55(3): 463-477
- Rafaela Dancygier, Karl-Oskar Lindgren, Sven Oskarsson and Kare Vernby. 2015. "Why are Immigrants Underrepresented in Politics? Evidence from Sweden". *American Political Science Review*. 109(4): 703-724
- Jane Mansbridge. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent "Yes"". *Journal of Politics*, 61(3): 628-657

### 6. Session 6: Institutions and the Quality of Representation

How do institutional designs affect the quality of representation? Do different electoral systems affect the congruence between voter preferences and elected elites? Can institutional designs — such as quotas — improve the representation of women and minorities in politics? In this session, we discuss the effectiveness of different measures available to improve representation and discuss potential trade-offs.

#### Mandatory readings

- Matt Golder and Benjamin Ferland. 2018. "Electoral systems and citizen-elite ideological congruence". In *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, ed. by Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart. Oxford University Press
- Tiffany D. Barnes and Mirya R. Holman. 2020. "Gender Quotas, Women's Representation and Legislative Diversity". *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4): 1271-1286.

#### Recommended readings

- Francesca R. Jensenius. 2017. *Social Justice Through Inclusion. The Consequences of Electoral Quotas in India*. Oxford University Press. **Chapter 1**
- Diana Z. O'Brien and Johanna Rickne. 2016. "Gender Quotas and Women's Political Leadership". *American Political Science Review* 110 (1): 112-126

- Rikhil R. Bhavnani. 2009. "Do Electoral Quotas Work after They Are Withdrawn? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India". *American Political Science Review* 103 (01): 23–35
- Mona Lena Krook. 2018. "Electoral systems and women's representation". In *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, ed. by E. S. Herron, R. J. Pekkanen, and M. S. Shugart. Oxford University Press
- Gulzar, Saad, Nicholas Haas, and Benjamin Pasquale. 2020. "Does Political Affirmative Action Work, and for Whom? Theory and Evidence on India's Scheduled Areas," *American Political Science Review*: 1-17.

### PART III: POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR

#### 7. Session 7: Values, Emotions, Information and Political Attitudes

*Why do people have the political attitudes they do? In this session, we examine how political attitudes and opinions are shaped, focusing in particular on the role of values, emotions and information. We examine why people come to believe "fake news" and why beliefs can be difficult to change. We distinguish between explicit and implicit attitudes and take an implicit associations test.*

#### Mandatory readings

- Peter K. Hatemi and Rose McDermott. 2016. "Give me Attitudes". *Annual Review of Political Science* 19:331–50
- Adam Thal. 2020. "The Desire for Social Status and Economic Conservatism among Affluent Americans". *American Political Science Review*. 114(2): 426-442

#### Recommended readings

- Charles S. Taber and Everett Young. 2013. "Political Information Processing". In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears and Jack Levy. Oxford University Press
- Shanto Iyengar, Yptach Lelkes, Matthew Levendusky, Neil Malhotra and Sean J. Westwood. 2019. "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States". *Annual Review of Political Science*. 22:129-146
- Valentino, Nicholas, Carly Wayne et Marzia Ocen. 2018. "Mobilizing sexism: The interaction of emotion and gender attitudes in the 2016 US presidential election." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82: 799-821.
- Sumitra Badrinathan. 2020. "Educative Interventions to Combat Misinformation: Evidence From a Field Experiment in India". *Working Paper*.
- Shanto Iyengar and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. "Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization". *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3): 690-707

## 8. Session 8: Political Behaviour in Context

*Why do people vote? Why do people participate more in politics in some contexts than others, and what explains the prevailing gender gap in political engagement? Under what conditions do voters attribute credit or blame for the government's economic performance? In this session, we discuss determinants of political participation and how context matters in shaping political behaviour.*

### Mandatory readings

- Mark N. Franklin. 2002. "The Dynamics of Electoral Participation". In *Comparing Democracies 2*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.
- Christopher J. Anderson. 2007. "The End of Economic Voting? Contingency Dilemmas and the Limits of Democratic Accountability". *Annual Review of Political Science*, 10: 271-296.

### Recommended readings

- Daniel J. Hopkins. 2010. "Politicized Places: Explaining Where and When Immigrants Provoke Local Opposition". *American Political Science Review*, 104(1): 40-60
- Amanda Lea Robinson and Jessica Gottlieb. 2019. "How to close the gender gap in political participation: Lessons from matrilineal societies in Africa." *British Journal of Political Science*
- Mark A. Kayser. 2014. "The Elusive Economic Vote". In *Comparing Democracies 4*, ed. by Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris. Sage Publications.
- Ruth Dassonneville, Mary K. Nugent, Marc Hooghe, and Richard Lau. 2020. "Do Women Vote Less Correctly? The Effect of Gender on Ideological Proximity Voting and Correct Voting." *The Journal of Politics*, 82(3): 1156-1160

## 9. Session 9: Diversity and Democracy

*How does ethnic diversity affect political behaviour? We begin this session by discussing what explains hostility towards immigrants and refugees and how ethnic diversity affects political preferences. We continue by discussing challenges to integration and examine how ethnic minorities respond to discriminatory environments in terms of their political behaviour.*

### Mandatory readings

- Salma Mousa. 2020. "Building Social Cohesion Between Christians and Muslims through Soccer in Post-ISIS Iraq". *Science*. 369(6505): 866-870
- Aala Abdelgadir and Vasiliki Fouka. 2020. "Political Secularism and Muslim Integration in the West: Assessing the Effects of the French Headscarf Ban". *American Political Science Review*. 114(3): 707-723

### Recommended readings

- Tamar Mitts. 2019. "From Isolation to Radicalization: Anti-Muslim Hostility and Support for ISIS in the West". *American Political Science Review*. 113(1): 173-194
- Jens Hainmueller and Dominik Hangartner. 2013. "Who Gets a Swiss Passport? A Natural Experiment in Immigrant Discrimination". *American Political Science Review*. 159-187

- William Hobbs and Nazita Lajevardi. 2019. "Effects of Divisive Political Campaigns on the Day-to-Day Segregation of Arab and Muslim Americans". *American Political Science Review*. 113(1): 270-276
- Claire L. Adida, David D. Laitin and Marie-Anne Valfort. 2016. *Why Muslim Integration Fails in Christian-Heritage Societies*. Harvard University Press.

#### **Chapters 1 & 8**

- Williamson, S., Adida, C. L., Lo, A., Platas, M. R., Prather, L., Werfel, S. H. 2020. "Family Matters: How Immigrant Histories Can Promote Inclusion," *American Political Science Review*, 1-8.
- Simonsen, Kristina Bakkær. 2020. "Politics Feeds Back: The Minority/Majority Turnout Gap and Citizenship in Anti-Immigrant Times," *Perspectives on Politics*: 1-16.