

Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas
Departamento de Ciência Política

FLS 6403 and FLP 0457

Comparative Politics: Public Opinion, Public Policy and Representation

1st semester / 2018

Lorena G Barberia

This course will be offered in English.

Comparative politics focuses on comparisons within or between countries, regions, or systems. In this course, we will focus on the links between public opinion, democratic politics, elections and public policy. Using both country-specific and cross-country analyses, we will discuss key themes, debates and concepts in the literature contrasting insights from empirical work in developed democracies with the emerging literature in developing democracies with particular attention to Latin American democracies. In the first part of the course, we will review the literature on opinion formation, considering the long and short-term influences that shape public opinion. In the second part of the course, we will focus on how public opinion is translated into policy outcomes. The course will include replications and laboratory exercises based on the analysis of public opinion data.

Course Objectives

The course aims to introduce students to the main research paradigms in comparative political behavior; and, to advance training in doing original empirical research on political participation, voting, public opinion analysis, etc. in a comparative perspective.

Pre-requisites

Students should have a background in statistical inference (for example, FLS 5028, or a similar course) and multivariate regression analysis (for example, FLS 6183, or a similar course).

Course Requirements

Participation and Seminar Presentations 30%

Problem Sets 30%

Final Paper 40%

Bibliography

Books

- Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 6th ed. edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House.
- Erikson, Robert S., Michael MacKuen and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The macro polity*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2015. *Fundamentos da Pesquisa em Ciência Política* (Lorena Barberia, Gilmar Masiero and Patrick Cunha Silva, Translators). São Paulo, Brazil.
- Soroka, Stuart Neil and Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of democracy: Politics, public opinion, and policy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Stimson, James A. 2004. *Tides of consent: How public opinion shapes American Politics*. Cambridge, UK; New York, USA: Cambridge University Press.

Book Chapters

- Greene, Kenneth F. and Andy Baker. 2015. "Positional issue voting in Latin America." In *The Latin American voter: Pursuing representation and accountability in challenging contexts*, eds. Ryan E. Carlin, Matthew M. Singer and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 173-194.
- Lupu, Noam. 2015. "Partisanship in Latin America." In *The Latin American voter: Pursuing representation and accountability in challenging contexts*, eds. Ryan E. Carlin, Matthew M. Singer and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 226-245.

Articles

- Benton, Allyson. 2005. "Dissatisfied Democrats or Retrospective Voters? Economic Hardship, Political Institutions, and Voting Behavior in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 38(4):417-442.
- Campello, Daniela and Cesar Zucco. 2016. "Presidential Success and the World Economy." *The Journal of Politics* 78(2):589-602.
- Carreras, Miguel and Castañeda-Angarita, Néstor. "Who Votes in Latin America? A Test of Three Theoretical Perspectives." *Comparative Political Studies*, 2014, Vol.47(8), pp.1079-1104.
- Duch, Ray, and Randy Stevenson. 2010. "The Global Economy, Competency and the Economic Vote." *Journal of Politics* 72: 105-123.

Echegaray, Fabián, and Carlos Elordi. 2001. "Public opinion, presidential popularity, and economic reform in Argentina, 1989-1996." In *Public support for market reforms in new democracies*, ed. S. Stokes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Remmer, Karen L. 1991. "The Political Impact of Economic Crisis in Latin America in the 1980s." *The American Political Science Review* 85(3):777-800.

Stokes, Susan. 2001. "Economic Reform and Public Opinion in Fujimori's Peru." In *Public support for market reforms in new democracies*, ed. Susan Stokes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 160-186.

Stokes, Susan C., Adam Przeworski, Jorge Buendía Laredo and Leandro Wolfson. 1997. "Opinión pública y reformas de mercado: Las limitaciones de la interpretación económica del voto." *Desarrollo Económico* 37(145):31-56.

Topics

I. What short and long-term factors shape public opinion?

1. The Nature of Mass Beliefs
2. Participation
3. Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations
4. Partisanship
5. Attitudes and Political Behavior

II. How does public opinion shape public policies?

6. Representation: What does the public want of government policy?
7. Public Preferences: Government Approval
8. Public Preferences for Government Spending
9. Policy Representation by Issue Domains
10. Performance and the Vote
10. Economic Crisis and Reform
12. Globalization and the Vote

Course Outline

I. What short and long-term factors shape public opinion?

Topic 1. The Nature of Mass Beliefs (March 8th, 2018)

Dalton, Chapters 1-2

Topic 2. Participation (March 15th, 2018)

Dalton, Chapters 3-4

Carreras, Miguel and Castañeda-Angarita, Néstor. "Who Votes in Latin America? A Test of Three Theoretical Perspectives." *Comparative Political Studies*, 2014, Vol.47(8), pp.1079-1104.

Topic 3. Values, Issues and Ideological Orientations (March 22nd, 2018)

Dalton, Chapter 5-6

Greene, Kenneth F. and Andy Baker. 2015. "Positional issue voting in Latin America." In *The Latin American voter: Pursuing representation and accountability in challenging contexts*, eds. Ryan E. Carlin, Matthew M. Singer and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 173-194.

Topic 4. Partisanship (April 12th, 2018)

Dalton, Chapters 7,8, 9

Lupu, Noam. 2015. "Partisanship in Latin America." In *The Latin American voter: Pursuing representation and accountability in challenging contexts*, eds. Ryan E. Carlin, Matthew M. Singer and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 226-245.

Topic 5. Representation (April 19th, 2018)

Dalton, Chapter 10-11

Luna, Juan, and Elizabeth Zechmeister. 2005. "Political Representation in Latin America: A Study of Elite-Mass Congruence in Nine Countries." *Comparative Political Studies* 38: 388-416.

II. How does public opinion shape public policies?

Topic 6. What does the public want of government policy? (April 26, 2018)

Soroka and Wlezien, Chapter 1-2

Stimson, Chapter 1-2

Topic 7. Public Preferences: Government Approval (May 3, 2018)

Stimson, Chapter 5

Barberia, Lorena and Moreira, Natália de Paula. "Taxation and Presidential Approval in Brazil." Working Paper.

Topic 8. Public Preferences and Government Spending (May 10, 2018)

Soroka and Wlezien, Chapter 4-6

Topic 9. Policy Representation by Issue Domains (May 17, 2018)

Soroka and Wlezien, Chapter 7-9

Topic 10. Performance and the Vote (May 24, 2018)

Lewis-Beck, Michael, Richard Nadeau, Eric Bélanger, Mathieu Turgeon and François Gélinau. 2016. *Latin American Elections: Choice and Change*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Whitten, Guy D., Lorena G. Barberia and Maria Laura Tagina. 2016. "Clarity of Responsibility and Economic Voting in Latin America" Working Paper.

Topic 11. Economic Crisis and Reform (June 7, 2018)

Benton, Allyson. 2005. "Dissatisfied Democrats or Retrospective Voters? Economic Hardship, Political Institutions, and Voting Behavior in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 38(4):417-442.

Echegaray, Fabián, e Carlos Elordi. 2001. "Public opinion, presidential popularity, and economic reform in Argentina, 1989-1996." In *Public support for market reforms in new democracies*, ed. S. Stokes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Remmer, Karen L. 1991. "The Political Impact of Economic Crisis in Latin America in the 1980s." *The American Political Science Review* 85(3):777-800.

Stokes, Susan. 2001. "Economic Reform and Public Opinion in Fujimori's Peru." In *Public support for market reforms in new democracies*, ed. Susan Stokes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 160-186.

Stokes, Susan C., Adam Przeworski, Jorge Buendía Laredo and Leandro Wolfson. 1997. "Opinión pública y reformas de mercado: Las limitaciones de la interpretación económica del voto." *Desarrollo Económico* 37(145):31-56.

Topic 12. Globalization (June 14, 2018)

Duch, Ray, and Randy Stevenson. 2010. "The Global Economy, Competency and the Economic Vote." *Journal of Politics* 72: 105-123.

Campello, Daniela and Cesar Zucco. 2016. "Presidential Success and the World Economy." *The Journal of Politics* 78(2):589-602.