

DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher education institution	Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
1.3 Department	Department of Political Science
1.4 Field of study	Political Science
1.5 Level of study	BA
1.6 Study program / Qualification	Political Science

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Discipline title	Political Behavior and Rational Choice Theory / Comportament politic și teoria alegerii raționale						
2.2 Course lecturer	Lector univ. Dr. Toma Burean toma.burean@ubbcluj.ro office hours each Friday 12-14 room 207 strada Minerilor nr. 85						
2.3 Seminar assistant	Asistent univ. dr. Ovidiu Oltean ovidiu.oltean@ubbcluj.ro						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	3	2.6. Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline type	DF

3. Total estimated time (hours of didactic activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the study plan	42	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Time distribution: 3 hours face to face and 4 hours individual study					hrs
Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography and notes:					1X14=14
Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field:					2X14=28
Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios and essays:					1x14=14
Tutorials					
Examinations					2
Other activities:					
3.7 Total hours of individual study	56				
3.8 Total hours per semester	98				
3.9 Number of credits	4				

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 based on the curriculum	Passing the course on Introduction in international relations from the first year/second semester
4.2 based on competences	•

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 for the course	<p>Seminar attendance is mandatory for at least 75% of the sessions (according to the UBB regulations). If one takes the exam in a session of re-examination, the seminar component of the grade will also be taken into account, so that a students that did not perform satisfactorily in seminar during the semester will have to take the course once again.</p> <p>Plagiarism is considered fraud and is defined and legislated by the Faculty of Political, Administration and Communication Studies https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/ro/resurse/administrative/regulamente https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/application/files/9715/6828/0474/Cod_etic_studenti.pdf). Plagiarism and attempted fraud is punished with the failing grade "1" and the case is reported to the Dean's office for further examination and sanctioning. Fraud during the final exam is punished with elimination from the exam.</p> <p>According to Article 29, paragraph 2 from the BBU regulations that define the student status, attendance of at least 75% of seminar meetings is compulsory. Students who fail to comply with this rule are not allowed to take the final exam, including in the retake session. In such cases, students should include the discipline in the study contract of the following year. The components of the final grade that reflect the seminar activity cannot be modified in the retake exam session. Should the seminar activity fail to meet the requirements for discipline completion, the student is bound to take the course once more in the next academic year.</p>
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5.2 for the seminar/laboratory

Attendance is mandatory for at least 75% of the seminar sessions according to the university regulations. In case of re-examination, the grade for the seminar is also taken into account when calculating the final grade.

6. Accumulated specific competencies

Professional competencies	<p>C1 Applying fundamental social and political theories in understanding, analyzing and evaluating socio-political organization. Analyzing concrete situations through the application of fundamental political science principles, theories and methods. Realizing individual and team projects on social and political theories. Adequately using basic concepts in political science. Employing the conceptual apparatus specific to political science in evaluating the relevance and impact of socio-political theories. Employing fundamental concepts from political science in describing and explaining the genesis and evolution of events and processes.</p> <p>C4 Employing social science methodology in evaluating the effects of political events and processes</p>
Transversal competencies	•

7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)

7.1 General objective	This course will familiarize students with theories of political behavior. This class will offer both theoretical and practical knowledge concerning the field of political behavior. Theoretical approaches will be matched with applied analyses on current events, so that at the end of the class students will form an adequate image of the field, and will be able to professionally analyze political events.
7.2 Specific objectives	<p>At the end of the course the students will be able to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apply theoretical approaches to understanding political events Apply theoretical approaches to the behavior of institutions, political organizations, individual political leaders, and citizens</p>

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
Week 1: Introduction. Presentation of the course topics	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 2: Approaches in political behavior	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 3: Rational Voter	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 4: Minimal rationality- Heuristics and ideology	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.

	concrete examples.	
Week 5 Cognitive dissonance and attitude change	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 6 Prejudice and online hate speech	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 7: Political participation	Open debate. Q&A	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 8: Protest participation- social media determinants	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 9: Sociodemographics	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 10 Electoral politics and gender	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 11: Economic vote	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 12: Public opinion – how is online public opinion created	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 13: The influence of mass media	Presenting concepts and theories centered around the main issues of the course. Discussions of concrete examples.	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
Week 14: Electoral Campaigns online and offline	Open debate. Q&A	Students have the obligation to read the mandatory bibliography as described in the syllabus.
<p>Bibliografie</p> <p>Tema 1 Introducere</p> <p>Tema 2 Clawson Rosalee și Zoe Oxley. 2021. Appendix to Chapter 1. <i>Public Opinion. Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice.</i>, Sage University Press, paginile 36-56</p> <p>Tema 3 Clawson Rosalee și Zoe Oxley. 2021. Chapter 5. Public Opinion. Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice., Sage University Press, paginile 196-235.</p> <p>Tema 4 297-332 Clawson Rosalee și Zoe Oxley. 2021. Chapter 8. Public Opinion. Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice., Sage University Press, paginile 297-332.</p> <p>Tema 5 Aronson, Elliot, Wilson, Timothy D., Akert, Robin M.1994. Cognitive Dissonance chapter 6 in <i>Social Psychology</i>, Harper Collins Publishers, New York,</p>		

Aronson chapter 6.

Tema 6

Aronson, Elliot, Wilson, Timothy D., Akert, Robin M. 1994. "Prejudice: Causes and Cures" chapter 13 in *Social Psychology*, Harper Collins Publishers, New York

Tema 7

Hague Rod și Martin Harrop. Participarea politică. Capitolul 9 din *Guvernământ și politici comparate*. 2016. CA Publishing. Paginile 161-178

Comsa Mircea 2009. Participare la vot. De ce nu voteaza oamenii?

Tema 8

Jose Manuel Robles-Morales and Ana Maria Cordoba-Hernandez. 2019. The Disintermediation of the Agents- The Case of #UnidosPodemos chapter 6 in *Digital Political Participation, Social Networks and Big Data*, 77-86

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-27757-4_6

Kirkizh Nora and Olessia Koltsova. 2021. Online News and Protest Participation in a Political Context: Evidence from Self Reported Cross Sectional Data paginile 1-10

Tema 9

Grigore Pop-Eleches si Joshua Tucker. 2017. *Communisms Shadow*. Capitolul 1 paginile 1-31.

Tema 10

Hilde Cofeee and Catherine Bolzendahl. Same Game, Different Rules? Gender Differences in Political Participation. 2010. *Sex Roles* 62 318-333.

Tema 11

Lewis-Beck Michael S and Mary Stegmaier. 2007. *Economic Models of Voting* cap 27

Tema 12

Clawson Rosalee și Zoe Oxley. 2021. Chapter 12. *Public Opinion. Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice.*, Sage University Press,

Tema 13

Clawson Rosalee și Zoe Oxley. 2021. Chapter 3. *Public Opinion. Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice.*, Sage University Press,

Tema 14

Junyan ZHU and Rachel Isaacs May 29th 2024 Campaign microtargeting and AI can jeopardize democracy.

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/campaign-microtargeting-and-ai-can-jeopardize-democracy/>

Organize an online campaign:

<https://activisthandbook.org/>

Nielsen Rasmus Kleis and Richard Fletcher . 2020. Chapter 7 *Democratic Creative Destruction? The Effect of A changing Media Landscape on Democracy. Social Media and Democracy. The State of the Field* editors Nathaniel Persily and Joshua Tucker. 139-162.

8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
Week 1: Introduction. Presentation of the course topics	Introductory remarks	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 2: Approaches in political behavior	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 3: Rational Voter	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 4: Minimal rationality- Heuristics and ideology	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one

	Interactively discussing examples.	weekly summary.
Week 5 Cognitive dissonance and attitude change	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 6 Prejudice and online hate speech	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 7: Political participation	Open discussion. Q&A	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 8: Protest participation- social media determinants	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 9: Socio-demographics	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 10 Electoral politics and gender	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 11: The Economic Voting	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 12: Public opinion – how is online public opinion created	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 13: The influence of mass media	Exploring and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in lecture. Interactively discussing examples.	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
Week 14: Electoral Campaigns online and offline	Open discussion. Q&A	Each student has the obligation to read the mandatory weekly bibliography and write up one weekly summary.
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Aronson, Elliot, Wilson, Timothy D., Akert, Robin M.1994. "Prejudice: Causes and Cures" chapter 6 in *Social Psychology*, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, Aronson chapter 6.

Tema 6

Aronson, Elliot, Wilson, Timothy D., Akert, Robin M.1994. "Prejudice: Causes and Cures" chapter 13 in *Social Psychology*, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, 492-537.

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9. The corroboration of discipline contents with the expectations of epistemic community representatives, professional associations and representative employers in the study program's corresponding field

Course descriptionThis course will familiarize students with theories of political behavior. This class will offer both theoretical and practical knowledge concerning political behavior. Theoretical approaches will be matched with applied analyses on current events, so that at the end of the class students will form an adequate image of the field, and will be able to professionally analyze political events.

Key concepts: political behavior, political system, political events, rational choice theory, elections, electoral systems.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Weight in final mark
10.4 Course	Knowledge of the subject area covered throughout the semester	Written exam	60%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	The seminar activities are divided into two components:	Quality and quantity of participation	40%

	<p>1. Active participation and completion of in-class assignments/exercises:</p> <p>Active participation in seminar discussions and involvement in the proposed in-class assignments and exercises are essential for understanding the topic of political behavior. Awarded points: 2 points</p> <p>2. Group presentation (2-3 persons):</p> <p>Each team of 2-3 people will prepare a presentation based on one of the texts from the course bibliography. The presentation will provide a critical analysis of the chosen text, including a synthesis of the main ideas, a critical discussion on its relevance in the context of contemporary political behavior, and practical examples from current political realities. Awarded points: 20% of the final grade</p> <p>Evaluation criteria for the presentation:</p> <p>Clarity and structure of the presentation: 5 points Ability to analyze and synthesize the text: 5 points Relevance of examples and connections with current political events: 5 points Effective teamwork and coherence of the presentation: 5 points Additional details for the presentation:</p> <p>Each team will coordinate with the instructor to select the chosen text and set the date of the presentation. The presentation must be structured so that each team member actively contributes. Total points for seminar activities: 4 points [To be eligible for points, you must attend at least 75% of the seminars (11 out of 14).]</p>		
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10.6 Minimum performance standard

The required readings are mandatory for everyone and every week..

Date

Course lecturer signature

Seminar assistant signature

25.09.2024



Date of approval in the Department

Head of department's signature

25.09.2024

