

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

POLS 9532B

Democratic Engagement

Winter 2018

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cameron D. Anderson

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** cander54@uwo.ca

**PHONE:** 519-661-2111 ext.81163

**OFFICE LOCATION:** SSC 4217

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 11:30am-1pm or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will explore the topic of democratic engagement. Largely through the analytical lens of political behaviour, we will address questions of what is democratic engagement, what explains various aspects of democratic engagement, and consider the influences of additional factors including institutions, knowledge, non-conscious factors and sources of inequalities. Lastly, we assess the relationship of engagement with representation in democracies.

**COURSE READINGS:**

Gidengil, E. et al. 2012. Dominance and Decline. UTP: Toronto.  
Selection of articles and book chapters available on OWL or online.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

25% Participation

30% Weekly Reading Summaries

45% Analytic Papers (3 x 15%) or a research paper

## DISCUSSION OF COURSEWORK:

**a) Class Participation** - As this is a graduate seminar course, there will be no lectures and students are expected to actively participate each week. The participation grade will be based on the quality of comment, evidence of preparation, willingness to challenge accepted ideas and concern for the views expressed by others. If unable to attend, please inform the instructor in advance. Students will be given a preliminary grade for participation in the seventh week of the course. The final participation grade may change based on whether performance improves, declines or stays the same.

**b) Reading Summaries** - All students will be required to complete reading summaries for each of weeks two through twelve. These summaries should be used as a means of preparing for each week's class and are intended to provide you with an opportunity, in advance of class, to read, interact with and comment on the readings. The summary should be composed of three parts. The first part should state, in your view, the most important two or three themes arising from that week's readings. The second part should outline two or three insights gained from these readings. This is to say, what did you learn that you didn't previously know or understand? The final part of the summary should articulate questions that were generated from the readings. The summaries should not be longer than two double-spaced pages and will be due at the beginning of each class. Each week three students will provide a very brief oral report of their reading summary at the beginning of each class. Late summaries will not be accepted. Summaries will be graded on a 'check system'. Acceptable summaries will receive a 'V'. Unacceptable or late summaries will receive a 'V-'. On occasion, an unusually perceptive summary may receive a 'V+'. For the term, an average of 'V' will be equivalent to an 'A-' grade of 80%.

**c) Analytic Papers (or a research paper)**– You are required to write 3 analytic papers: one from each of Weeks 2 and 3, Weeks 4 to 8 and Weeks 9 to 12. These papers should keep summary of the readings to a minimum and instead focus on articulating a coherent response to issues, arguments and ideas raised in the readings. You may choose to highlight how common themes are addressed throughout the readings; you might take issue with the central argument of certain authors; you might pose questions that deal with core issues of the readings or you might criticize one author based on the arguments of another and/or your own analysis. These papers will be graded on how well you interact with and develop your response to the readings. The papers should be 7-8 (double-spaced) pages long. These papers are due **January 31** (Weeks 2 and 3), **March 21** (Weeks 4 to 8) and **April 18** (Weeks 9 to 12). This paper *cannot be* written on the same week's material that you present. Alternatively, in lieu of the 3 analytic papers, you may choose to write a substantive research paper of 20-25 pages on a topic agreed in consultation with the professor. The research paper will be due on the date of the third analytic paper.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

### ***Submission of Assignments:***

Assignments (both reading summaries and analytic papers) are due at the beginning of class. The third analytic paper and research paper will be due at **12pm on April 18**.

### ***Academic Offences:***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

### ***Late penalty:***

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will **not be accepted** for grading.

### ***Extensions:***

Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances an extension may be granted at the discretion of the professor.

## Part I Introductory Topics

### Week 1. January 10 - Political Behaviour

Required readings:

Sanders, D. 2010. "Behavioural Analysis." In Marsh and Stoker (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hilygus, S. 2016. "The Practice of Survey Research: Changes and Challenges." In A. Berinsky (ed.) *New Directions in Public Opinion*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Routledge.

Fridkin, K. and P. Kenney. "Laboratory Experiments in American Political Behavior." In J. Leighley. *The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Suggested Readings:

Chapters on Survey Research, Survey Questionnaires, Field Experiments in Leighley (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Available online:

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199235476.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199235476>

### Week 2. January 17 - What is Democratic Engagement?

Bennett, W. L. 1998. The Uncivic Culture: Communication, Identity, and the Rise of Lifestyle Politics. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 314: 740–61.

Harris, F. and D. Gillion. 2010. "Expanding the Possibilities: Reconceptualizing Political Participation as a Toolbox." In Leighley (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Mendelberg, T. 2002. "The deliberative citizen: theory and evidence." In Delli Carpini et al. (eds.) *Research in Micropolitics: Political Decision-making, Deliberation and Participation*. 6: 151-93. Greenwich: JAI Press.

Neuman, W. R., B. Bimber and M. Hindman. 2011. "The Internet and Four Dimensions of Citizenship." In Edwards III et al. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media*. Oxford: OUP.

Available online:

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199545636.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199545636>

Norris, P. 2007. "Political Activism: New Challenges, New Opportunities." In Boix and Stokes (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford: OUP.

Available online:

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199566020.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199566020>

Thomassen, J. 2007. "Democratic Values." In Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Available online:

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199270125.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199270125>

## **Part II Sources of Democratic Engagement**

### **Week 3. January 24 - Democratic Attitudes and Values**

Anderson, C. J., and C. Guillory. 1997. "Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems." *American Political Science Review*. 91 (1): 66-81.

Armingeon, K., and K. Guthmann. 2014. "Democracy in Crisis? The Declining Support for National Democracy in European Countries, 2007-2011." *European Journal of Political Research* 53 (3): 423-42.

Birch, S. 2008. "Electoral Institutions and Popular Confidence in Electoral Processes: A Cross-National Analysis." *Electoral Studies* 27 (2): 305-20.

Curini, L., W. Jou, and V. Memoli. 2012. "Satisfaction with Democracy and the Winner-Loser Debate: The Role of Policy Preferences and Past Experience." *British Journal of Political Science* 42 (2): 241-61.

Reher, S. 2015. "Explaining Cross-National Variation in the Relationship between Priority Congruence and Satisfaction with Democracy." *European Journal of Political Research* 54 (1): 160-81.

### **Week 4. January 31 - Turnout**

Anderson, C. J. and P. Beramendi. 2012. "Left Parties, Poor Voters, and Electoral Participation in Advanced Industrial Societies." *Comparative Political Studies*. 45, 6, 714-46.

Brady, Verba, and Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review*. 89, 2, 271-294.

Blais, A. 2000. *To vote or Not to Vote*. University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh. pp. 1-54.

Blais, A. and D. Rubenson. 2013. "The Source of Turnout Decline." *Comparative Political Studies*. 46, 1, 95-117.

Kostelka, Filip. 2017. "Does democratic consolidation lead to a decline in voter turnout? Global evidence since 1939." *American Political Science Review* (forthcoming).

### **Week 5. February 7 - Parties and Partisanship**

Clarke, H., D. Sanders, M. Stewart and P. Whiteley. 2009. "Travel Tips for students of electoral choice: the dynamics of partisanship in Britain and elsewhere." In J. Bartle and P. Bellucci (eds.). *Political Parties and Partisanship*. London: Routledge.

Garzia, Diego. 2013. "Changing Parties, Changing Partisans. The Personalization of Partisan Attachments in Western Europe." *Political Psychology* 34, 1, 67-89.

Gerber, A. G. Huber and E. Washington. 2010. "Party Affiliation, Partisanship and Political Beliefs: A Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 104, 4, 720-744.

Green, D. and E. Schickler. 2009. "A spirited defence of party identification against its critics." In J. Bartle and P. Bellucci (eds.), *Political Parties and Partisanship*. London: Routledge.

Johnston, R. 2006. "Party Identification: Unmoved mover or sum of preferences?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9, 329-51.

Wren, A. and Kenneth M. McElwain. 2008. "Voter and Parties." Edited by Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK

### **Week 6. February 14 - Voting and Elections**

Gidengil et al. 2012. *Dominance and Decline*. UTP: Toronto. Chapters 1-8

Fournier, P., Cutler, F., Soroka, S., Stolle, D. and Bélanger, É., 2013. "Riding the orange wave: leadership, values, issues, and the 2011 Canadian election." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 46, 4, 863-897.

\*\*\*\*\* February 21 - No Class - Reading Week \*\*\*\*\*

### **Week 7. February 28 - Protest Politics**

Gleditsch, K. and M. Rivera. 2015. "The Diffusion of Nonviolent Campaigns," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61, 5, 1120-45.

Koopmans, R. 2009. "Social Movements." In Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

McClendon, G. 2014. "Social Esteem and Participation in Contentious Politics: A Field Experiment at an LGBT Pride Rally." *American Journal of Political Science* 58, 2, 279-290.

Norris, P., S. Walgrave, and P. Van Aelst. 2005. "Who Demonstrates? Antistate Rebels, Conventional Participants, or Everyone?" *Comparative Politics* 37, 2, 189-205.

Rudig, W. and G. Karyotis. 2014. "Who Protests in Greece? Mass Opposition to Austerity." *British Journal of Political Science* 44, 3, 487-513.

Rucht, D. 2009. "The Spread of Protest Politics." In Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

### **Part III Additional Considerations**

#### **Week 8. March 7 – Institutional Effects**

Anderson, C. D. 2006. "Economic Voting and Multilevel Governance: A comparative Individual-level Analysis." *American Journal of Political Behaviour* 50, 2, 449-463.

Anderson, C. J. 2009. "The Interaction of Structures and Voter Behavior." In Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Kedar, R. 2006. "How voters work around institutions: Policy balancing in staggered elections." *Electoral Studies* 25, 3, 509-27.

Lublin, D. 2017. "Electoral Systems, Ethnic Heterogeneity and Party System Fragmentation." *British Journal of Political Science* 47, 2, 373-389.

Smith, D. 2016. "Electoral Rules and Voter Turnout." In Herron, Pekkanen, and Shugart (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: OUP.

Available Online:

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190258658.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190258658>

\*\*\*\*\* March 14 - No Class \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Week 9. March 21 – Knowledge, Information and Competence**

Blais, A., E. Gidengil, P. Fournier, and N. Nevitte. 2009. "Information, Visibility and Elections: Why Electoral Outcomes Differ When Voters Are Better Informed." *European Journal of Political Research*, 48: 256-280.

Lupia, A. 1994. "Shortcuts versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections." *American Political Science Review*, 88: 63- 76.

Luskin, R. C., J. Fishkin and R. Jowell. 2003. "Considered Opinions: Deliberative Polling in Britain." *British Journal of Political Science*, 32: 455-487.

Sheppard, J. 2015. "Compulsory Voting and Political Knowledge: Testing a 'Compelled Engagement' Hypothesis." *Electoral Studies* 40, 1, 300-07.

Taber, C. and E. Young. 2013. "Political Information Processing." In Huddy, Sears and Levy (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Oxford: OUP.

### **Week 10. March 28 – Biological and Non-Conscious Factors**

Alford, J. R., C. L. Funk, and J. R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99: 153-168.

Bakker, B. N., D. Hopmann, and M. Persson. 2015. "Personality Traits and Party Identification over Time." *European Journal of Political Research* 54 (2): 197-215.

Brader, T., N. A. Valentino and E. Suhay. 2008. "What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and Immigration Threat." *American Journal of Political Science* 52: 959-978.

Fowler, J. H and C. T. Dawes. 2008. "Two Genes Predict Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 70: 579-594.

Gonzalez, F., K. Smith and J. Hibbing. 2016. "No Longer 'Beyond our Scope': The Biological and Non-Conscious Underpinnings of Public Opinion." In Berinsky (ed) *New Trends in American Public Opinion*. New York: Routledge.

Weber, C. 2012. "Emotions, Campaigns, and Political Participation." *Political Research Quarterly* 66: 414-428.

### **Week 11. April 4 – Inequalities - Gender and Race**

Duefel, B. and O. Kedar. 2010. "Race and Turnout in U.S. Elections Exposing Hidden Effects." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74, 2, 286-318.

Kanthak, K. and J. Woon. 2015. "Women don't run? Election aversion and candidate entry." *American Journal of Political Science* 59: 595-612.

Mendelberg, T., C. Karpowitz and N. Goedert. 2014. "Does Descriptive Representation Facilitate Women's Distinctive Voice? How Gender Composition and Decision Rules Affect Deliberation?" *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 291-306.

Norris, P. 2009. "New Feminist Challenges to the Study of Political Engagement." In Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. Oxford: OUP.

Rocha, R., C. Tolbert, D. Bowen and C. Clark. 2010. "Race and Turnout: Does Descriptive Representation in State Legislatures Increase Minority Voting?" *Political Research Quarterly*. 63, 4, 890-907.

Verba, Burns and Schlozman. 1997. "Knowing and Caring about Politics: Gender and Political Engagement." *Journal of Politics*. 59, 4, 1051-72.

#### **IV Concluding thoughts**

##### **Week 12. April 11 - Engagement and Democratic Representation**

Gilens, M. 2005. "Inequality and Democratic Responsiveness." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 69: 778-796.

Golder, M and J. Stramski. 2010. "Ideological Congruence and Electoral Institutions." *American Journal of Political Science* 54, 1, 90-106.

Golder, M. and B. Ferland. 2017. "Electoral Systems and Citizen-Elite Ideological Congruence." In Herron, Pekkanen and Shugart (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: OUP.

Petry, F. and M. Mendelsohn. 2004. "Public Opinion and Policy Making in Canada 1994-2001." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 37, 3, 505-29.

Soroka, S. and C. Wlezien. 2011. "Federalism and Public Responsiveness to Policy." *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 41, 1, 31-52.

Soroka, S. And C. Wlezien. 2015. "Electoral Systems and Opinion Representation." *Representation* 51, 3, 273-285.