

POIR 622: Political Attitudes and Behavior

Spring Semester 2024
Monday 2-4:50
DMC 158

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Office hours: Wednesday 12:30-2:00 (please e-mail to schedule an appointment)

Description: This seminar surveys research on mass public opinion and political behavior focusing on attitude formation and opinion change, political psychology, reasoning and choice, partisan and group identities, and political participation and representation. Emphasis is placed on competing theories and empirical studies. There are no prerequisites for the class although it is assumed that seminar participants have basic training in research methods. Graduate students outside of Political Science in related fields such as Psychology, Sociology, Communications, Education, and Public Policy are welcome to enroll in this class.

Major Topics to be Discussed

Attitude Models and Public Opinion

Information Processing and Reasoning

Framing and Priming Effects on Public Opinion

Rationality and Self Interest

Partisanship: Identity, Biases, and Polarization

Ideological Belief Systems

Racial and Ethnic Attitudes and Group Identities

Political Tolerance and Democratic Values

Voting and Political Participation

Democratic Representation