

POP88154 — Political Behaviour

Module Information	
Module Code	POP88154
Module Title	Political Behaviour
Department	Political Science
Module Personnel	Dr. Asli Ceren Cinar
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	TBD

Module Content	
Module Description	This module studies citizen vote choice and political participation. The module will begin by introducing students to the general theories of political opinion formation and change. It will also look at the electoral system and party competition as factors that affect how citizens vote in elections. The next part of the module will consider policy issues s key factors that shape the vote choice and help us understand election outcomes. We will finally consider unequal political participation, its causes and its consequences. We will also discuss what can be done to reduce inequalities in political participation and how politically feasible these responses might be. Discussion of the assigned reading material will consider the theoretical perspectives employed and the assumptions inherent in these theories, the strengths and weaknesses of the research design and methodologies employed, and the implications of these empirical results for democratic theory.
Learning Outcomes	Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: • Describe the different approaches to opinion formation and vote choice. • Explain and critically evaluate the major factors shaping citizens' voting behaviour

Module Content

	• Understand the causes and consequences of inequalities in political participation • Construct arguments concerning current debates about how citizens vote in elections
Indicative Reading / Resources	Campbell, Angus, <u>Philip Converse</u>, <u>Warren Miller</u>, and <u>Donald E. Stokes</u>. 1960. The American Voter. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Downs, Anthony. 1957. An Economic Theory of Democracy. New York: Harper Fieldhouse, Edward, Jane Green, Geoffrey Evans, Jonathan Mellon, Christopher Prosser, Hermann Schmitt, Cees van der Eijk. 2019. Electoral Shocks: The Volatile Voter in a Turbulent World. Oxford University Press. Green, D.P. and Gerber, A.S., 2019. Get out the vote: How to increase voter turnout. Bloomsbury Publishing USA.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Participation 20%, Response Papers 20% (10% +10%), Final Paper 60%,
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None