

POLS Y316: PUBLIC OPINION & PARTICIPATION

Spring 2019

Instructor:	Rita Nassar	Time:	MW 2:30-3:45
Email:	rnassar@iu.edu	Place:	Hamilton Lugar Sch 1118
Office Hours:	MW 1-2 and by appointment	Office:	Woodburn Hall 364

Textbook:

- Clawson, Rosalee A., and Zoe M. Oxley. 2012. Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice. 2nd edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.

Canvas: The syllabus, PowerPoint presentations, and any other course documents will be posted on the Canvas page for this course.

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the literature on public opinion and participation. We will begin by examining how public opinion is measured and conceptualized. We will then discuss how opinions are formed, how much people know about politics and how media, political elites, and current events can shape public opinion. We will finally look at whether public opinion matters in policymaking and citizen participation in politics.

Grading policy

Grading will be based on three exams, attendance and participation. There will be no extra-credit assignments offered in this course. I will use the following grading scale:

97-100% A+	77-79% C+
93-96 % A	73-76% C
90-92 % A-	70-72% C-
87-89 % B+	67-69% D+
83-86 % B	63-66% D
80-82 % B-	60-62% D-

Grade Allocation

Attendance & Participation	20%
First Examination	25%
Second Examination	25%
Final Examination	30%

Class participation

To facilitate discussion, you will write from time to time responses to specific readings and lectures, engage in class exercises or homework assignments individually, in pairs or in groups. Each assignment will be graded on a scale from 0 (nothing turned in) to 10 points (complete, thoughtful answer). You are allowed to miss one class exercise. Additional missed work requires appropriate documentation for make-ups, and a one-page written assignment, on a topic determined by the instructor. You must submit requests and

documentation for make-ups within 3 days of the missed exercise. In short, attendance is required at all class meetings, and you are responsible for all materials covered in the readings, lectures, and discussions. The assignments and participation in class discussions will account for 20 percent of the course grade.

Important Dates:

Midterm #1	February 4
Midterm #2	March 25
Final Exam	April 29

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require disability-related accommodations or assistance, please let me know early in the semester so that your needs may be appropriately met. As per IUB policies, you must have established your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Wells Library W302, (812) 855-7578. Please see <https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/disability-services-students/index.shtml> for additional information.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the standards and policies detailed in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. Academic misconduct is defined as any activity that tends to undermine the academic integrity of the institution. Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, violation of course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. All suspected violations of the Code will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Student Conduct) and handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, reduction in your final course grade, and a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor in advance.

Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/study guides to their classmates. Selling the instructor's notes/study guides in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct (violation of course rules). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member's notes/study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using IU email, or via Canvas may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies; additional consequences may result.

Other Course Policies

- *Computers and tablets can be used for class purposes only.* Inappropriate computer use (e.g. social media, online shopping, emailing) is not permitted and may result in loss of computer privileges. Cellphones are expected to be on silent and not used for any purpose during class.
- *Religious holy day observance* Please contact me in advance if an assignment or exam is due on a day when you are observing a religious holy day. I will work with you to find an acceptable alternative time to complete the assignment.
- *Medical needs, illnesses, and other emergencies* If a medical need or other emergency will result in missing class or assignments, please communicate with me ahead of time. I am willing to be accommodating but communication and documentation is necessary.

- *Deviations from syllabus and course outline only with advance warning.* You may treat this syllabus and course outline as final, I will only make deviations or adjustments with advance warning to the entire class via email.

Course Outline

Week 1 (Jan 7 & 9) - What is Public Opinion?

- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 1

Week 2 (Jan 14 & 16) - Measuring Public Opinion

- Berinsky, A. J. (2017). Measuring public opinion with surveys. *Annual review of political science*, 20, 309-329.
- Kennedy, C. et al. (2018). An evaluation of the 2016 election polls in the United States. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 82(1), 1-33.

Week 3 (Jan 21 & 23) - Political knowledge and the Organization of Political Attitudes

- **No class on Monday Jan 21, MLK Jr. Day**
- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 5 and 8

Week 4 (Jan 28 & 30) - Attitude Stability and Attitude Change

- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 4

Week 5 (Feb 4 & 6)- Where do political attitudes come from?

- **FEB 4: FIRST EXAMINATION**
- Clawson and Oxley, Chapters 2 and 6

Week 6 (Feb 11 & 13) - What influences political attitudes?

- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 7
- Haidt, J. (2012). *The righteous mind: Why good people are divided by politics and religion*. Vintage. Chapters 7-8

Week 7 (Feb 18 & 20) - What influences political attitudes?

- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 3
- Iyengar, S., & Kinder, D. R. (2010). *News that matters: Television and American opinion*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 12

Week 8 (Feb 25 & 27) - Polarization

- Barber, M., & McCarty, N. (2015). Causes and consequences of polarization. *Political Negotiation: A Handbook*.
- Iyengar, S., Lelkes, Y., Levendusky, M., Malhotra, N., & Westwood, S. J. (2018). The origins and consequences of affective polarization in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Week 9 (Mar 4 & 6) - Public opinion and policy

- Clawson and Oxley, **3rd ed.** Chapter 12 (posted on Canvas)
- Gilens, M., & Page, B. I. (2014). Testing theories of American politics: Elites, interest groups, and average citizens. *Perspectives on politics*, 12(3), 564-581.

Week 10 (Mar 11 & 13)- *Spring Break: Class does not meet.*

Week 11 (Mar 18 & 20) - Social Capital and Trust in institutions

- Clawson and Oxley, Chapter 11
- **Mar 20: Exam review**

Week 12 (Mar 25 & 27) - Prejudice and public opinion

- **MAR 25: SECOND EXAMINATION**
- Krysan, M. (2000). Prejudice, politics, and public opinion: Understanding the sources of racial policy attitudes. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26(1), 135-168.

Week 13 (Apr 1 & 3) - Political participation

- Highton, B. (2004). Voter registration and turnout in the United States. *Perspectives on Politics*, 2(3), 507-515.
- Leighley, J. E., & Nagler, J. (2013). *Who votes now?: Demographics, issues, inequality, and turnout in the United States*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 6
- Valentino, N. A., Brader, T., Groenendyk, E. W., Gregorowicz, K., & Hutchings, V. L. (2011). Election night's alright for fighting: The role of emotions in political participation. *The Journal of Politics*, 73(1), 156-170.

Week 15 (Apr 8 & 10) - Political participation and gender: Who runs? Who wins?

- Dolan K. "Women as Candidates in American Politics The Continuing Impact of Sex and Gender"
- Crowder-Meyer, M. (2013). Gendered recruitment without trying: how local party recruiters affect women's representation. *Politics & Gender*, 9(4), 390-413.

Week 16 (Apr 15 & 17) - Political participation and race: Who runs? Who wins?

- Griffin, J. D. (2014). When and why minority legislators matter. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 17, 327-336.
- Sanbonmatsu, K. (2013). The Candidacies of U.S. Women of Color for Statewide Executive Office.
- **Apr 17 Exam review**

Final Exam: Mon., April 29, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.