Nom, Prénom de l'enseignant :
CAUTRES Bruno, VASILOPOULOS Pavlos

Titre de l'enseignement (dans la langue principale de l'enseignement) :
Citizen Politics and Democracy in Times of Crisis

Titre de l'enseignement en anglais :

Langue principale de l'enseignement :
English

Pré-requis :
(Facultatif, 300 caractères maximum, dans la langue principale de l'enseignement)

No prerequisites are required for this class.

Présentation de l’enseignement et des objectifs pédagogiques :
(Obligatoire, 800 caractères maximum, dans la langue principale de l'enseignement)

This course explores the role of the citizen within contemporary democratic processes. It draws on insights from political sociology and comparative politics to answer essential questions regarding continuity and change on issues such as vote choice, political participation, public protest, trust in the political system, ideological orientations and political attitudes. Special emphasis is placed on the impact of the economic crisis on the changing preferences and behaviors of mass publics across Europe. The course aims to develop the students’ analytical skills in comprehending current political events, public opinion, new social movements and current electoral dynamics from a comparative perspective. Each session of the course will draw on theoretical concepts and link them to empirical findings using comparative, time-series survey data. Students will be invited to critically combine theoretical tools with empirical evidence in order to comprehend the dynamic link between public opinion and political parties in postmodern Western democracies.

Modalités d’évaluation :
(Obligatoire - 300 caractères maximum, dans la langue principale de l'enseignement)

Grades will be determined by the weighted average of a) one written assignment (40%) b) one written exam (25%) c) two quizzes (20%) and d) student participation in class (15%)

Late essays receive a grade penalty of 3% for every 24 hours of delay.
Reading List: Mandatory readings are marked with an *

Class 1: A “citizen politics” perspective (Bruno Cautrés & Pavlos Vasilopoulos)

What is the main perspective of the course? Definitions, main concepts and approaches presented in this course. What is a “citizen politics” perspective?

Readings


Class 2: Political culture and political Preferences Before and after the Economic Crisis: The Greek case (Pavlos Vasilopoulos)

What is political culture? How can history help us understand current political issues? Why is Greece in this situation? How has the crisis shaped political preferences among Greek citizens?

Readings


Class 3: Modes of political participation: Does the traditional distinction between ‘conventional’ and ‘protest’ politics still make sense? (Bruno Cautrés)

Is there an erosion of ‘conventional’ forms of participation (voting, party membership, civic engagement)? Are there new forms of civic participation? Are repertoires of collective action mixing “old” and “new forms” of actions?

Readings

Class 4 : Inglehart’s theory of the cultural roots of democratic regimes : Is support for democracy a “universal” value among citizen ? (Pavlos Vasilopoulos)

May we explain the emergence of new forms of participation and civic implications by the raise of post-materialist values? How has the crisis affected support for democracy across Europe?

Readings

Inglehart, Ronald. 2003. ‘How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy and How Do We Measure It?’ PS: Political Science and Politics.


Class 5 : Is there still a coherent cluster of attitudes and values associated with left-right ideological orientations? Are they declining ? (Pavlos Vasilopoulos)

Are European citizen less mobilized and less identified by spatial notions like the left and the right ?

Readings


Lewis Beck et al. The American Voter revisited, chap. 10.


Class 6 : The social basis of party support: weakening cleavages? (Bruno Cautrés)

Are traditional social cleavages weakening or being reinvented as ‘cues’ for voting behavior and party choice? Is there a crisis of political mediations due to this weakening ? Are citizens still expressing political demands based on sociological belongings?

Readings


Class 7: Partisan loyalties and voting choice: Is there good evidence that mass partisan loyalties have eroded in “old” and “new” democracies? (Bruno Cautrés)

Is there any evidence that partisan loyalties have eroded in “old” or “new” democracies? What is the relevance of “party identification” approach nowadays?

Readings


Class 8: Critical citizens or stealth democrats? (Bruno Cautrés)

What are the implications of cultural change for democratic values and attitudes? Is there any evidence for the ‘critical citizens’ thesis? Can we talk about “indifferent” or “part-time” citizens?

Readings


Class 9: The impact of EU and globalization on party systems and citizen politics (Bruno Cautrés)

What is the Hans-Peter Kriesi contribution to the “winners” vs “losers” of modernization conflict? How citizen are affected by EU integration and globalization? Who are the “winners” and the “losers”? How political parties evaluated in their policies choices and preferences due to EU integration and globalization? Are there any gaps between these policy evolutions and the citizen demands?

Readings


Class 10: Attitudes toward the EU and European Integration before and after the Crisis (Pavlos Vasilopoulos)

Readings


**Class 11: The Political Consequences of the Crisis at the Domestic Level (Pavlos Vasilopoulos)**

How has the economic crisis affected domestic political systems? The withering away of mainstream parties and the rise of the new far left and far right across Europe.

**Readings**


**Class 12 : Exam**