<h1 class="pageTitle">POL30830 Parties and Party Competition</h1>
<h2>Academic Year 2019/2020</h2>

How can we identify differences between party systems, determine party positions, and measure public opinion? Do parties keep their promises or are politicians pledge breakers ? Are promises in certain policy areas more likely to be fulfilled? In what policy areas do parties differ in terms of their positions and issue emphasis? And do parties respond to changes in public opinion?

In this module, we first discuss the main functions of political parties, outline features of representative democracies, and identify ways of measuring public opinion. Next, we assess whether parties keep their promises, whether the mandate model of democracy is a desirable and realistic mode of political representation, and how existing studies on election pledge fulfilment can be improved. Afterwards, we investigate parties willingness and capacity to respond to changes in public opinion. Fourth, we discuss different approaches of measuring party positions, political ideology, and the salience of policy areas. Based on these methodological approaches, we identify the circumstances under which parties change their positions and issue emphasis. Finally, we briefly discuss alternative types of political participation that go beyond representative government and electoral democracy.

Curricular information is subject to change

What will I learn?

Learning Outcomes:
1. Extensive knowledge of central theories of representation, the mandate model of democracy, and party competition
2. Detailed insights into past and current approaches to study questions about pledge fulfilment, party positions, responsiveness and issue ownership
3. Critical reading and discussing complex academic literature and diverse quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches

Indicative Module Content:
The following topics will be covered in this course: parties and party systems; the mandate model of democracy ; measuring and aggregating public opinion; economic voting; the cost of governing; responsiveness; party competition; party positions, salience, and issue ownership; deliberative and direct democracy.

How will I learn?

Student Effort Hours:

Student Effort Type	**Hours**
Lectures	22
Autonomous Student Learning	103
Total	**125**

Am I eligible to take this module?

Requirements, Exclusions and Recommendations

Not applicable to this module.

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Not applicable to this module.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Strategy

Description	Timing	Open Book Exam	Component Scale	Must Pass Component	% of Final Grade
Essay: 2,500 3,000 word essay	Unspecified	n/a	Graded	No	70
Assignment: 1,000 word response paper	Unspecified	n/a	Graded	No	30

Carry forward of passed components
No

What happens if I fail?

Resit In	Terminal Exam
Summer	No

Assessment feedback

Feedback Strategy/Strategies
* Feedback individually to students, post-assessment

How will my Feedback be Delivered?
Not yet recorded.

Reading List

<nav class="white-box no-left-arrow zero-top-margin">
<h1 class="printOnly"><img src="https://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/ucdcollegesandschools_logo.png"> UCD Course Search
Parties and Party Competition (POL30830) </h1><h3 class="printOnly">Academic Year 2019/2020</h3> The information contained in this document is, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate at the time of publication, and is solely for informational purposes. University College Dublin accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever arising as a result of use or reliance on this information.
  <h4 class="noPrint">Parties and Party Competition (POL30830)</h4>
  <dl>
    <dt>Subject:</dt>
    <dd>Politics</dd>
    <dt>College:</dt>
    <dd>Social Sciences & Law</dd>
    <dt>School:</dt>
    <dd>Politics & Int Relations</dd>
    <dt>Level:</dt>
    <dd>3 (Degree)</dd>
    <dt>Credits:</dt>
    <dd>5.0</dd>

    <dt>Trimester:</dt>
    <dd>Spring</dd>
    <dt>Module Coordinator:</dt>
    <dd>Dr Stefan Muller</dd>
    <dt>Mode of Delivery:</dt>
    <dd>Face-to-Face</dd>
<dt>Internship Module:</dt><dd>No</dd>

<dt>How will I be graded?</dt>
 <dd>Letter grades </dd>

  </dl>
<button class="menubutton" onclick="window.print()"><i class="fa fa-print fa-fw"> Print Page</button>

(Google Chrome is recommended when printing this page)

</nav>