

1. Informations générales :

Titre du cours :	Political involvement in comparative perspective		
NOM de l'enseignant·e :	Zmerli, Sonja	Semestre :	☒ Automne - pas de préférence ☒ Printemps
Public visé :	☐ 1 ^{ère} année ☒ 2 ^{ème} année ☐ 1 ^{ère} année et 2 ^{ème} année	Langue :	☐ français ☒ anglais
Nombre maximal d'étudiant·es :	☐ 20 ☒ 30 ☐ 40 ☐ 50 ☐ Pas de maximum	Organisation du cours :	☐ 9 séances de 2h sur 9 semaines ☒ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 12 semaines ☐ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 6 semaines ☐ 6 séances de 3h sur 12 semaines

2. Résumé du cours :

Conceptually, political involvement refers to citizens' political attitudes, knowledge and participation. To assess the perceived legitimacy of democratic regimes, political sociologists mostly draw inferences from comparative or longitudinal population surveys which allow them to analyze democratic societies over time or with each other. For example, political support is considered to be a corner stone of any legitimate and well-functioning democratic regime. Despite deviating views on the required level of political support, scholars by and large agree that a minimum amount of political trust is needed for stable and efficient democratic systems. As a consequence, any potential sign of eroding political support, such as declining voter turnouts, the loss of members of political parties or increasing political cynicism or apathy, has become the subject of contested scholarly debates.

Similarly, political participation is considered to be part and parcel of democratic societies. And yet the interrelationship between the legitimacy of political rule and the "universe" of political participation is complex. While high turnout levels at national elections, for example, are an essential ingredient of legitimizing governments and their policies, non-institutionalized forms of participation, such as protest activities or boycotts, may be perceived as a threat to incumbent political parties or even the democratic regime as a whole.

This CS will address the full conceptual range with its contradictions, and investigate the empirical state of affairs in European societies and beyond.

3. Pré-requis éventuels :

English B2+

4. Modalités de contrôle des connaissances et des compétences envisagées :

Written exam and oral presentation.

5. Description détaillée du cours (facultatif)

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