Course Description

This is a course for graduate students to prepare or advance their own projects on political behavior or opinion formation. The course will focus on the review of classics about voters and information processing and the exploration of recent inspiring research works. This is a theory- and research-oriented course, so the topics will not be constrained to Taiwanese context. Studies, however, are encouraged to discover interesting phenomena that have not been identified by American political scientists. The topics addressed in this class include party identification, belief system, the formation of voter preferences, and social network effects.

Course Texts and Readings

The course requires a few book chapters and a pack of journal articles. Most articles and books are available in the library or can be obtained through university’s electronic journal archive or the interlibrary loan system. I will provide a copy of the assigned book chapters for you to photocopy.

Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three reaction papers</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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- **Class participation (30%)**: Involvement in class discussion include your attendance, questions provided for discussion, and respondances to questions. You are asked to read through the given materials and bring thoughts to the class.

- **Reaction papers (30%)**: You are free to pick up three weeks to write reaction papers in the beginning of the semester and write papers that each has five pages (no less than four and not longer than six). Reaction papers should have your (re)organization of the assigned readings and your thoughts (evaluation or critiques) about the papers. Bonus points will be given to papers with extended (self-selected) readings that help develop arguments or clarify points.

- **Research paper (40%)**: Your research paper, due on June 18 (5pm), should be a semester-long project. The topic you choose should be related to one of the subjects this class addresses. You can extend your reaction papers into a term paper, but there is no need to do so. Your research paper should be 10-15 pages (double-spaced) in Chinese-Traditional, or 10,000 words or 25 pages in Chinese. Papers are
graded based on the originality and the importance to the research community, the organization of the literature (there should be at least five journal articles), the design of the research (methodology), the presentation and interpretation of your findings, and the format (use APA style).

- Topics important but not be able to be covered this class include selective processes, economic voting, strategic voting, cocktail effects, mandate effects, political efficacy, etc. You are encouraged to apply and extend the knowledge you obtain in this class to explore these topics in your future research. You will need my consent if you want to write something beyond the scope of this class.

- All reaction papers are due in class. The term paper is due in the beginning of the last class. Note that I do not give “I” for incomplete works. Make sure you turn in the papers before the deadlines. The cover page of papers should include the following information: class name, author's full name and student id, paper type (mid-term paper or final term paper), turn-in date, and contact information.

**Weekly Schedule**

- Note: The courses on Feb 19 & 26 are merged to March 5 & 12, respectively.

**[March 5 & 12] Topic 1. Network Effects**

- Before Class:

- Supplemental:

**[March 19 & 26] Topic 2: Party Identification**

- Before Class:

• Supplemental:

[April 9] Topic 3: The Origin of Voter Preferences
• NOTE: I will be attending the MPSA conference in the week of April 2. This class will be merged into April 9.

• Before Class:

• Supplemental:

[April 23] Topic 4: Ambivalence and Its Consequences
• No class on April 16 (mid-term exam week)

• Before Class:

• Supplemental:
[April 30] Topic 5: Voter Turnout and Political Participation

- **Before Class:**

- **Supplemental:**

[May 7 & 14] Topic 6: Cross-Pressure and Turnout

- **Before Class:**

- **Supplemental:**

[May 21 & June 4] Topic 7: Political Knowledge and Voters’ Competence

- **Note:** No class on May 28.

- **Before Class:**


• Supplemental:


• Before Class:


• Supplemental:

