

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI
2024/2025 SESSION**

**POL 300: POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR
Units**

Three Credit

Instructor:

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Course Description

The course examines the behavioural and post-behavioural approaches in the study and understanding of a branch of political science known as political behaviour. This course introduces us to the theoretical and measurement aspects of various determinants of political behaviour, including culture, environment, ideas, socialisation, communication, party alignments, and mass mobilisation. Political Behaviour is therefore the study of the way people think, feel, and act about politics. The course will also provide us with an understanding of key issues in political behaviour such as public opinion, ideology, partisanship, political knowledge, participation, campaigns, the media, ethnicity and intergroup relations.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of this course, students are expected to;

1. Become curious about political actions and inaction and ask good questions;
2. Assess and synthesise information to arrive at informed opinions and decisions about politics.;
3. engage in analytical and critical thinking concerning political events;
4. Respectfully discuss and deliberate ideas
5. Communicate effectively on critical political issues and events.

Course Requirement:

(a)	Compulsory Class Attendance	-	10 Marks
(b)	Class Participation	-	10 Marks
(b)	Mid-Semester Assessment	-	20 Marks
(c)	End of Semester Examination	-	60 Marks

Module One: Introductory Issues in Political Behaviour

Understanding Politics

Understanding Political Behaviour

Origin of the study of Political Behaviour

Major Trusts of Political Behaviour

Factors Influencing Political Behaviour

The Study of Politics before Behaviour Revolution

The Behavioural Revolution

Foundations of Political Behaviour

Module Two: Theoretical Approaches to the study of Political Behaviour

Elite Theory
Group Theory
Games Theory
Power Theory
Marxist Theory

Module Three: Ideology and Political Behaviour

Understanding Ideology
Types of Ideology
Spectrum of Ideology
Ideology and Political Behaviour

Module Four: Political Socialisation

Understanding Political Socialisation
Major Agents of Political Socialisation
Functions of Political Socialisation
Effects of Political Socialisation on Political Behaviour

Module Five: Political Culture

Understanding Political Culture
Forms of Political Culture
Political Culture and Political Behaviour

Module Six: Political Participation

Understanding Political participation
Scope of Political Participation
Types of Political Participation
Factors Affecting Political Participation
Dimension of Political Participation
Identify Politics, Political Participation and Democracy

Module Seven: Political Communication

Understanding Political Communication
Types and Nature of Political Communication
Tools of Political Communication
Political Communication and Political Behaviour

Module Eight: Ethnicity, Election and Political Behaviour

Understanding Ethnicity
Understanding Elections
Ethnicity and Elections

Ethnicity, Elections and Political Behaviour

Reading List

Aarts, K., Blais, A., and Schmitt, H. (eds.) 2005. *Political Leaders and Democratic Elections*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Adams, J., Merrill, S., and Grofman, B. 2005. *A Unified Theory of Party Competition: A Cross-National Analysis Integrating Spatial and Behavioral Factors*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Almond, G., and Verba, S. 1963. *The Civic Culture*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Anderson, C., et al. 2005. *Losers' Consent: Elections and Democratic Legitimacy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Blais, A. (2000). *To Vote or Not to Vote: The Merits and Limits of Rational Choice Theory*. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Booth, J. and Seligson, M. 2008. *The Legitimacy Puzzle: Democracy and Political Support in Eight Latin American Nations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. B

Ratton, M., Mattes, R., and Gyimah-Boadi, E. 2004. *Public Opinion, Democracy, and Market Reform in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cain, B., Dalton, R., and Scarrow, S. (eds.) 2003. *Democracy Transformed? Expanding Political Opportunities in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Campbell, A.; Converse, P. E.; Miller, W. E.; and Stokes, D. E. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York:

Chan, S (2021) *Africa Political Thought: An Intellectual History of the Quest for Freedom*. C. Hurst and Co Publishers.

Wiley. Chu, Y. (eds.) 2008. *Party Politics in East Asia: Citizens, Elections, and Democratic Development*. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner. C

Chu, Y., et al. (eds.) (2008). *How East Asians View Democracy*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Colton, T. (2000). *Transitional Citizens: Voters and What Influences Them in the New Russia*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Dahl, R. A. 1961. *Who Governs?* New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press. Dalton, R. 2004. *Democratic Challenges, Democratic Choices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dercon, S (2022) *gambling on development: Why Some Countries Win and Others Lose*. C. Hurst and Company Publishers

Eldersveld, S. J. 1964. *Political Parties*. Skokie, Ill.: Rand McNalley. Eulau, H., and Prewitt, K. 1973. *Labyrinths of Democracy*. Indianapolis, Ind.:

Fuchs, D. 2007. The political culture paradigm. In *Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, ed. R. J. Dalton and H.-D. Klingemann. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gurin, G.; and Miller, W. E. 1954. *The Voter Decides*. Evanston, Ill.: Row Peterson. ——— ———
1981. *Generations and Politics*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Hayes, S. P., J.R. . 1932. Voter's attitudes towards men and issues. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 2:
164-82.

Huntington, S. 1996. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. New York: