

**POLSC 608
SPRING 2025**

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S.

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TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS - 1:05-2:20 PM

WHY DO WE HOLD THE POLITICAL BELIEFS THAT WE DO?

WHAT DRIVES DRIVE PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR?

**HOW BIG A ROLE DO GENETICS, SOCIALIZATION, AND POLITICAL CULTURE
PLAY?**

DO I CHOOSE MY IDEOLOGY OR DOES IT CHOOSE ME?

WHY DO PEOPLE VOTE (OR NOT)?

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE RUN FOR OFFICE AND OTHERS BECOME ACTIVISTS?

**ARE WE RATIONAL POLITICAL ACTORS AND DOES THAT MATTER FOR
DEMOCRACY?**

**THIS COURSE IS A BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE FORCES THAT MOTIVATE
PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE
FORCES THAT DRIVE PUBLIC OPINION, WHY THE PROCESS VARIES WITHIN THE
POPULATION, WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE TO ENGAGE (OR NOT) IN POLITICS, AND
WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE ELECTORAL DECISIONS.**

