

# POLIMETRICS

## Syllabus for ATTENDING STUDENTS

(40h – 6 CFU)

Università degli Studi di Milano – Department of Social and Political Sciences

Academic Year 2020-2021

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## Summary

The course aims to teach the basics of party competition, shedding light on different theories and strategies (ranging from the spatial theory of voting, to theories on issue competition, valence politics, populism, negative campaigning, and so on). In addition, students will learn the main techniques (manual or automated) that allow to measure political outcomes, with a focus on estimating the positions of political actors. With respect to this, peculiar attention will be devoted to social media as a source of data.

## Evaluation

Oral exam from remote (until the end of the Covid emergency). Detailed information will be provided via email few days before the exam.

## Required readings (compulsory)

*All the readings are freely available on ARIEL in PDF format  
(see the section “Readings & Teaching Materials”)*

**1)** Benoit, K., & Laver, M. (2006). Chapter 3: Empirical policy spaces. In: Benoit, K., & Laver, M. (2006). *Party Policy in Modern Democracies* (pre-print draft).

**2)** Benoit, K., & Laver, M. (2006). Chapter 4: Measuring Policy Positions. In: Benoit, K., & Laver, M. (2006). *Party Policy in Modern Democracies* (pre-print draft).

- 3)** Grofman, B. (2004). Downs and Two-Party Convergence. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7(1), 25-46 <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.7.012003.104711>
- 4)** Bakker, R., de Vries, C., Edwards, E., Hooghe, L., Jolly, S., Marks, G., Polk, J., Rovny, J., Steenbergen, M., & Vachudova, M. A. (2015). Measuring party positions in Europe: The Chapel Hill expert survey trend file, 1999–2010. *Party Politics*, 21(1), 143–152. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068812462931>
- 5)** Polk, J., Rovny, J., Bakker, R., Edwards, E., Hooghe, L., Jolly, S., Koedam, J., Kostelka, F., Marks, G., Schumacher, G., Steenbergen, M., Vachudova, M., & Zilovic, M. (2017). Explaining the salience of anti-elitism and reducing political corruption for political parties in Europe with the 2014 Chapel Hill Expert Survey data. *Research & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168016686915>
- 6)** Volkens, A. (2007). Strengths and weaknesses of approaches to measuring policy positions of parties. *Electoral Studies*, 26(1), 108–120, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2006.04.003>.
- 7)** Klingemann, H.-D., Volkens, A., Budge, I., Bara, J., & McDonald, M.D. (2006). Introducing the Manifesto Data: Background. In: Klingemann, H.-D., Volkens, A., Budge, I., Bara, J., & McDonald, M.D. (2006). *Mapping Policy Preferences II: Parties, Electorates and Governments in Eastern Europe and the OECD 1990-2003*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006.
- 8)** Merz, N., Regel, S., & Lewandowski, J. (2016). The Manifesto Corpus: A new resource for research on political parties and quantitative text analysis. *Research & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168016643346>
- 9)** Zulianello, M. (2014). Analyzing party competition through the comparative manifesto data: some theoretical and methodological considerations. *Quality and Quantity*, 48, 1723–1737. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-013-9870-0>
- 10)** Klingemann, H.-D., Volkens, A., Budge, I., Bara, J., & McDonald, M.D. (2006). Chapter 4: Evaluating Validity with the Standard Left-Right Scale: Matching Measurements to Conceptual Intentions. In: Klingemann, H.-D., Volkens, A., Budge, I., Bara, J., & McDonald, M.D. (2006). *Mapping Policy Preferences II: Parties, Electorates and Governments in Eastern Europe and the OECD 1990-2003*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006.
- 11)** Ceron, A. (2015). The Politics of Fission: An Analysis of Faction Breakaways among Italian Parties (1946–2011). *British Journal of Political Science*, 45(1), 121-139. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123413000215>
- 12)** Hjorth, F., Klemmensen, R., Hobolt, S., Hansen, M. E., & Kurrild-Klitgaard, P. (2015). Computers, coders, and voters: Comparing automated methods for estimating party positions. *Research & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168015580476>
- 13)** Slapin, J.B., & Proksch, S.-O. (2008). A Scaling Model for Estimating Time-Series Party Positions from Texts. *American Journal of Political Science*, 52: 705-722. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2008.00338.x>
- 14)** Grimmer, J., & Stewart, B.M. (2013). Text as data: The promise and pitfalls of automatic content analysis methods for political texts. *Political Analysis*, 21(3):267–297. doi:10.1093/pan/mps028
- 15)** Rovny, J. (2012). Who emphasizes and who blurs? Party strategies in multidimensional competition. *European Union Politics*, 13(2), 269–292. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116511435822>

- 16)** Lo, J., Proksch, S., & Slapin, J. (2016). Ideological Clarity in Multiparty Competition: A New Measure and Test Using Election Manifestos. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46(3), 591-610. doi:10.1017/S0007123414000192
- 17)** Giebler, H., Lacewell, O.P., Regel, S., & Werner, A. (2018). Chapter 7: Decline or Change? Party Types and the Crisis of Representative Democracy. In: W. Merkel, S. Kneip (eds): *Democracy and Crisis. Challenges in Turbulent Times*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS
- 18)** Wagner, M., & Meyer, T.M. (2014). Which Issues do Parties Emphasise? Salience Strategies and Party Organisation in Multiparty Systems. *West European Politics*, 37(5), 1019-1045, DOI: 10.1080/01402382.2014.911483
- 19)** De Sio, L., De Angelis, A., & Emanuele, V. (2018). Issue Yield and Party Strategy in Multiparty Competition. *Comparative Political Studies*, 51(9), 1208–38. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414017730082>
- 20)** Somer-Topcu, Z. (2015). Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequences of the Broad-Appeal Strategy in Europe. *American Journal of Political Science*. 59, 841-854. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12165>
- 21)** van Heck, S. (2018). Appealing broadly or narrowing down? The impact of government experience and party organization on the scope of parties' issue agendas. *Party Politics*. 24(4), 347–357. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068816657374>
- 22)** Bischof, D. (2017). Towards a renewal of the niche party concept: Parties, market shares and condensed offers. *Party Politics*, 23(3), 220–235. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068815588259>
- 23)** Bischof, D., & Wagner, M. (2020). What Makes Parties Adapt to Voter Preferences? The Role of Party Organization, Goals and Ideology. *British Journal of Political Science*, 50(1), 391-401. doi:10.1017/S0007123417000357
- 24)** Genovese, F. (2015). Politics ex cathedra: Religious authority and the Pope in modern international relations. *Research & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168015612808>
- 25)** Ceron, A., & Greene, Z. (2019). Verba volant, scripta manent? Intra-party politics, party conferences, and issue salience in France. *Party Politics*, 25(5), 701–711. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819836034>
- 26)** Lucas, C., Nielsen, R., Roberts, M., Stewart, B., Storer, A., & Tingley, D. (2015). Computer-Assisted Text Analysis for Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis*, 23(2), 254-277. doi:10.1093/pan/mpu019
- 27)** Kosmidis, S., Hobolt, S. B., Molloy, E., & Whitefield, S. (2019). Party Competition and Emotive Rhetoric. *Comparative Political Studies*, 52(6), 811-837. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414018797942>
- 28)** Rooduijn, M., & Pauwels, T. (2011). Measuring Populism: Comparing Two Methods of Content Analysis. *West European Politics* 34(6), 1272-1283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2011.616665>
- 29)** Dolezal, M., Ennser-Jedenastik, L., Müller, W. C., Praprotnik, K., & Winkler, A. K. (2018). Beyond salience and position taking: How political parties communicate through their manifestos. *Party Politics*, 24(3), 240–252. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068816678893>
- 30)** Gründl, J. (2020). Populist ideas on social media: A dictionary-based measurement of populist communication. *New Media & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820976970>

**31)** Harmel, R. (2018). The how's and why's of party manifestos: Some guidance for a cross-national research agenda. *Party Politics*, 24(3), 229–239. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068816678880>

**32)** Ceron, A. (2017). Intra-party politics in 140 characters. *Party Politics*, 23(1), 7-17. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068816654325>

**33)** Schumacher, G., Hansen, D., van der Velden, M. A. C. G., & Kunst, S. (2019). A new dataset of Dutch and Danish party congress speeches. *Research & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168019838352>

## **Next scheduled exams (so far)**

Wednesday **30/6**, 13.30, oral from remote (non-attending students only!)

Tuesday **20/7**, 9.30, oral from remote (non-attending students only!)

Tuesday **14/9**, 8.30, oral from remote (non-attending students only!)

Additional dates TBD