

EVS 185. Fall 2015. Final exam review sheet

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions, short-answer questions, and a short essay.

For the listed concepts, know what they are and (when applicable) how they relate to each other.

- The four theories of democracy: What are their characteristics? How do they see the role of public opinion in a democracy? What are the critiques against each of the theories?; Normative and empirical component of democratic theories.
- Public opinion: What is the consensus definition of public opinion? What do critics of this definition argue?; attitude extremity, attitude importance, beliefs, values, emotions
- The five ways to measure public opinion (what they are, their characteristics, advantages, disadvantages),
- Sampling error, non-sampling error, types of non-sampling error (& how to avoid each type of non-sampling error); random sample, confidence interval,
- Political support: why is it important?; objects of political support (and what it means for the stability of a political regime if support is lacking); diffuse support, specific support; measurement validity, conceptual definition, operational definition, trend in support for the EU (basic facts)

What are the three major explanations of support for the EU? How are cognitive abilities, age, and religion related to support for the EU?

What does U.S. research show about the effect of self-interest on attitudes?

Kinds of self-interest related to support for the EU (objective factors, subjective factors, egocentric and sociotropic evaluations) - know the examples we talked about and the direction of the relationship between these factors and support for the EU.

If support for the EU were purely driven by self-interest, what would it mean for the nature of support for the EU (by "nature" I mean whether it's specific or diffuse). What would it mean for the stability of the EU in times such as an economic crisis?

Statistical relationship, correlation, positive relationship, negative relationship, statistical significance,

What is a cue or a proxy? Why do citizens use cues? What do citizens use as cues in figuring out their support for the EU? What does research find about cues and support for the EU?

What is European identity? Gary Marks' framework for territorial identity; Exclusive identity, multiple identity; How does the Eurobarometer measure European identity? Approximately what percentage of Europeans feels "nationality only", "nationality and European", "European and nationality", "European"? Is European identity stable over time? Citizens of which countries feel most/least as citizens of the EU? What is the average percentage of EU citizens who feel they are citizens of the EU? What percentage

of citizens (approximately) are "very" or "fairly" attached to the EU/to their town/ to their country? Citizens of which countries feel most/least attached to the EU? What is the interquartile range?

Review all the figures we worked with in class and make sure that you know how to interpret them. Remember the key substantive findings from each figure. Review all the articles that you read and make sure you remember what each of them argues, that is, what their main message is. (Hint: authors usually summarize their argument in the abstract and in the conclusion, sometimes in the introduction). Review the readings from the book by Clawson and Oxley. Make sure you understand all the terms typed in bold.

Diffuse political support, specific political support (which better for regime stability in a crisis? Why?), aggregate-level data, individual-level data (know the difference), panel survey, cross-sectional survey (or panel data v. cross-sectional data); independent variable, dependent variable,

What is political socialization? What are the sources of political socialization? Benevolent leader imagery, malevolent leader imagery. What did researchers in the U.S. find about parental influence on children's political attitudes? Impressionable years; Life-cycle effect; Cohort effect, period effect;

What is an argument? What is an assumption? What assumptions are common in public opinion research?

Why do we need media in a democracy? Three models of effects of political communication on citizens' attitudes: hypodermic model, minimal effects model, subtle effects model; Know the meaning of the following concepts: reinforcement effect, activation effect, conversion effect, two-step flow of information, opinion leaders; agenda setting effect, priming effect, framing effect, frame (+ know examples), How is EU enlargement framed? What effect do the frames have on citizens' support for the enlargement? How is the EU framed in the news? What effect the frames have on support for the EU?

What is political knowledge?

Is politically knowledgeable public important for a democracy? Why? Why not?

U.S.-based research on political knowledge: Are people well informed about politics?

About what aspects of politics are they best informed? Are citizens misinformed? Does it matter?

How well are European citizens informed about the EU? (if asked 10 questions, most respondents answer [add a number] questions correctly).

Know the approximate percentages of EU citizens who correctly answer the following knowledge questions: About the number of EU member states; whether the EP is directly elected; whether Switzerland is a member.

Do citizens know more about domestic politics than about the EU?

Has the level of political knowledge about the EU changed over time? If yes, how?

Generalist, specialist; Are citizens generalists or specialists? Why does it matter for measuring political knowledge?

What are the problems with the mainstream research on political knowledge?
What are the consequences of political knowledge? (U.S., EU)
Which groups of citizens are more knowledgeable? Does this differ U.S. vs. the EU?

What does it mean to organize one's political thinking/to have constrained attitudes/to have structured attitudes?

What does Philip Converse's research find about constraints in American citizens' attitudes? What methods did he use to find this? What percentage of citizens uses ideological terms when they talk about politics? What percentage of citizens understand ideological terms and can connect them to political parties? What did Converse find about constraints in elites' attitudes?

Do results from Converse's study hold today or did they change over time?

What are the implications of Converse's research for democracy?

Do European voters and candidates in European Parliament elections structure their opinions about politics the same way? If yes, how?; Are political parties in European Parliament elections ideologically close to their voters?

- review the readings from Clawson & Oxley in greater detail. Make sure you understand the terms in bold. You can use the uploaded document called [Clawson_Oxley_Glossary.pdf](#) to help you review the bolded terms (you don't need to know all the terms in the glossary, just those that appeared in the required readings;

According to the research from the U.S., does public opinion matter for policy? If yes, when does it have more influence?; permissive consensus, constraining dissensus;; Do EU elites follow or lead public opinion?; Is European public mood related to policy output at the EU level?

For the journal articles from the required readings - make sure that you know what the author's argument is. (Hint: authors usually summarize their argument in the abstract and in the conclusion, sometimes in the introduction)

I will choose the topic for the short essay in one of these areas:

- The four democratic theories - their characteristics, how they see the role of public opinion, what do critics say about these theories.
- What is political support? What is diffuse and specific support? Describe the concepts and discuss the concept and how it relates to stability of political regimes. Is there diffuse support for the EU? How do you know?
- What are the three major explanations of support for the EU? How does each of them explain mass public support for the EU?
- How is European identity measured in the Eurobarometer surveys? What do the results tell us about how widespread European identity is (make sure you can support this by some concrete results of the surveys)

- What are, according to the Subtle effect model, the three kinds of effects that media have on citizens' attitudes? Describe each of them, make sure you can give an example of each and how it affects attitudes.
- What is political knowledge? Is it important in a democracy? Do all theories agree that it's important? What is the level of political knowledge in the EU? Is it enough political knowledge according to your opinion?
- What does it mean to "organize one's political thinking"? What does research show about the level of ideological thinking in the United States and in the EU? Do elites and the masses in the EU think about politics the same way? Why is it important that the elites and the masses organize their thinking about politics the same way?