

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSCI 4028.002
SPRING 2008
HLMS 241
11 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

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HOURS: W 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.
& BY APPOINTMENT

In this class, we will consider how politics works at the most micro level – within the minds of both political elites and average citizens. One feature that makes political psychology particularly fabulous to study is that it speaks to so many aspects of political phenomena – from American politics to comparative studies to international relations. For example, political psychology is important to understanding how religious and ethnic identities contribute to state conflict, how voters are affected by the rhetoric of politicians, and how the personalities of political leaders affects how they make political decisions.

COURSE OUTLINE

- We will start with an overview of the field of political psychology and the ways questions of political psychology are studied.
- Next, we will study the psychological roots of political behavior, and the contributions of influences such as socialization, personality, and genes to how citizens and political leaders make decisions.
- From there, we will consider the mechanisms of how people construct political beliefs and determine political choices, investigating topics such as emotion, cognition, partisan bias, and persuasion.
- Finally, we will study political psychology of groups, considering topics such as why people dislike other groups, the psychological roots of political conflict, and the routes to deliberation and cooperation.

CULEARN IS YOUR FRIEND

I will regularly update class information on the website for the class at culearn.colorado.edu. This syllabus will be posted there, as well as links to assignments and other exciting material.

EXPECTATIONS

You are encouraged to be an active participant in class. Please feel free to raise questions at any point during lectures, including matters of clarification, theoretical points, or topics to address in class discussion. You should also keep in touch by e-mail or by visiting office hours if you have any questions about course expectations or the material covered in class.

You are also expected to maintain proper classroom etiquette. This includes respecting the opinions of others even if you disagree, not talking out of turn, putting away newspapers and crossword puzzles during lecture, turning off cell phones before class, and not disrupting the class if arriving late.

READING MATERIAL

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, the readings include a set of journal articles and book chapters, which can be accessed on CULearn.

- Some are available in the library's e-reserves: libraries.colorado.edu/screens/course reserves.html
- Some are articles from journals available online through the library's e-journal archives.
- *Note:* In some cases, you may be blocked from accessing online journals from off-campus computers. See information on the website of the University Library for instructions on remote access from off-site: ucblibraries.colorado.edu/research/offcampusaccess.htm

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the readings, you will be responsible for the following:

participation, short assignments, and quizzes (*worth 25% of your final grade*)

Because class attendance is an important prerequisite for participating in discussions and in-class activities, attendance will be taken each class session. Frequent absences will lower your participation grade. We will also have several in-class activities that contribute to this portion of your grade, and many weeks we will have short quizzes on the readings. We will have a few short homework assignments as well.

three papers (*each worth 15% of your final grade*)

You will prepare three papers during the semester, one for each of the major three units we cover in class. Paper guidelines are detailed in separate handouts.

two exams (*each worth 15% of your final grade*)

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. You can contact the Disability Services office for more information at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

SOME IMPORTANT COMMENTS ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are not familiar with the rules of citing sources in written work or what constitutes plagiarism, you should contact me or refer to the University Honor Code at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode. Additional information about avoiding plagiarism, citation style, and writing in political science is posted on CULearn. Academic dishonesty will result in an F in the course and referral to the Honor Council for additional non-academic sanctions.
- All papers are expected to be original work, not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course (unless prior approval of all instructors involved is obtained).

PSCI 4028: POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY CLASS SCHEDULE

ABOUT POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. What is political psychology?

Tuesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 17

Describing the field of political psychology, the methods of studying political psychology

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ROOTS OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

2. The roots of political behavior: biological and social

Tuesday, January 22 and Tuesday, January 24

Nature versus nurture, parental socialization, genetic explanations

- Easton, David, and Jack Dennis. 1965. "The Child's Image of Government." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 361:40-57.
- Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99:153-167.

3. Personality

Tuesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 31

Presidential personality, authoritarianism

- Barber, James David. 1985. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. Chapters 1 and 2.

4. Conformity and obedience

Tuesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 7

Social pressures to conform, obedience, groupthink

- Janis, Irving L. 1982. *Groupthink: Psychological Studies of Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. Chapters 1-2.

5. Altruism and self-interest

Tuesday, February 12 and Thursday, February 14

Self interest, altruism, belief systems, core values, ideology

- Gintis, Herbert, Samuel Bowles, Robert Boyd, and Ernst Fehr. 2003. "Explaining Altruistic Behavior in Humans." *Evolution and Human Behavior* 24(3):153-172.
- Lane, Robert E. 1959. "The Fear of Equality." *American Political Science Review* 53:35-51.

Thursday, February 14: Paper 1 due

THE POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OF DECISION-MAKING

6. Emotion

Tuesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 21

Emotions, affect

- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2-5.

7. Political cognition

Tuesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 28

Memory, schemas, associative networks, information processing

- Schachter, Daniel L. 1999. "The Seven Sins of Memory: Insights from Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience." *American Psychologist* 54(3):182-203.
- Lodge, Milton, Kathleen M. McGraw, and Patrick Stroh. 1989. "An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 83(2):399-420.

8. Stereotypes

Tuesday, March 4

Political impressions, attitude automaticity, stereotypes

- Devine, Patricia G. 1989. "Stereotypes and Prejudice: Their Automatic and Controlled Components." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 56:5-18.

Thursday, March 6: Midterm exam

9. Heuristics

Tuesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 13

Inference, heuristics, short cuts, civic competence

- Halpern, Sue M. 2005. "The Moment of Truth?" *The New York Review of Books* 52(7):19-21.
- Jervis, Robert. 1993. "The Drunkard's Search." In Shanto Iyengar and William J. McGuire, eds., *Explorations in Political Psychology*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

10. Motivation and bias

Tuesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 20

Motivated reasoning, bias in decision-making

- Kahneman, Daniel, and Amos Tversky. 1984. "Choices, Values, and Frames." *American Psychologist* 39(4):341-350.
- Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3):755-769.

Thursday, March 20: Paper 2 due

Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 27: Spring break – class does not meet.

11. Persuasion

Tuesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 3

Political persuasion, attitude change

- Sears, David O., and Richard E. Whitney. 1973. "Political Persuasion." In Ithiel de Sola Pool, Wilbur Schramm, Frederick W. Frey, Nathan Maccoby, and Edwin B. Parker, eds., *Handbook of Communication*. Chicago: Rand McNally. Pages 253-263.

THE POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OF GROUPS

12. Group identity

Tuesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 10

Social identities, in-group/out-group sentiments, nationalism, patriotism

- Tajfel, Henri, and John C. Turner. 1986. "The Social Identity Theory of Intergroup Behavior." In Stephen Worchel and William G. Austin, eds. *Psychology of Intergroup Relations*. Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Huddy, Leonie, and Nadia Khatib. 2007. "American Patriotism, National Identity, and Political Involvement." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1):63-77.

13. Conflict

Tuesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 17

Understanding group conflict, Stanford Prison Experiment, genocide and mass killing

- Sherif, Muzafer. 1956. "Experiments in Group Conflict." *Scientific American* 195(5): 54-58.
- Staub, Ervin. 2000. "Genocide and Mass Killing: Origins, Prevention, Healing and Reconciliation." *Political Psychology* 21(2):367-382.

14. Cooperation

Tuesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 24

Social and evolutionary roots of cooperation

- Silk, Joan B. 2006. "Who Are More Helpful, Humans or Chimpanzees?" *Science* 311:1248-1249.
- Tyler, Tom R. 2008. "The Psychology of Cooperation." In Brandon A. Sullivan, Mark Snyder, and John L. Sullivan, eds., *Cooperation: The Political Psychology of Effective Human Interaction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

15. Deliberation

Tuesday, April 29 and Thursday, May 1

Social discussion, exposure to different viewpoints, deliberation and its consequences

- Mutz, Diana C. 2006. *Hearing the Other Side: Deliberative versus Participatory Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-3.

Thursday, May 1: Paper 3 due

Monday, May 5: Final exam (1:30-4:00 p.m.)