

Political Psychology

POS 5208 - Spring 2018

Wednesdays 11:45AM-2:15PM in BEL 113

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Office Hours: M/Tue 8-9AM and by appointment

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1 OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course focuses on research that explores the psychological processes of individual decision makers. This research focuses on *political* attitudes and decisions, but also includes more general research on attitude formation and information processing. The first goal of the course is to understand the distinct set of theoretic approaches and substantive foci of political psychology. We will study theoretic approaches including rational choice, personality, information-processing and cognition, social learning, and group identity. We will see how these approaches are applied to a range of substantive topics including authoritarianism, political socialization, political ideologies, racial attitudes, and political participation.

In addition to these substantive considerations, a second goal of the course is to understand the methods that scholars use to study political psychology. While we will consider readings that trace the development of the field over time, the emphasis will be on recent quantitative work. We will try to understand how the methodologies common to political psychology inform both the questions researchers ask and the answers they receive.

The third goal of the course will be to increase students' overall level of professionalism. We will accomplish this goal, in part, by periodic discussions of a variety of relevant topics for carrying out and presenting political science research—in both written and oral form. The final paper and presentation, discussed below, is designed to compliment this emphasis.

Required Books

1. James N. Druckman, Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia, editors. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge ; New York, June 2011
2. Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, editors. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology: Second Edition*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2 edition edition, September 2013

2 GRADES

Students' grades for the course are comprised of the following components:

PARTICIPATION (20%): Each weekly meeting will be spent discussing and critically evaluating the assigned readings. At the beginning of the meeting, I will ask each student to provide a brief comment or question that will serve to help orient our discussion of the week's material. After this open-ended discussion, the remainder of the class will be spent evaluating each assigned reading in greater depth. Students' participation grades hinge on their contribution to each discussion. Students will earn a B grade for the week if they demonstrate their familiarity with the readings, a B+/A- grade if they demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these readings, and an A if they demonstrate an understanding of how these

readings build upon, reinforce, or contradict material from earlier in the course.

RESPONSE MEMOS (40%): Students must write four response memos over the course of the semester, each worth 10% of your final grade. Students who choose to write an optional fifth memo will have their lowest score dropped from their final grade. Student can each use their own discretion to choose which weeks to provide responses. Each memo should respond to several of the corresponding week's readings, but should *not* summarize these readings. Rather, each memo should posit a novel argument which may include one or more of the following: identifying a problem with the current literature on the topic; providing plausible alternative explanations to observed results; criticizing the methodologies used and proposing other strategies of research; criticizing how a theoretical construct has been defined or measured; identifying overlooked implications of a set of findings; suggesting new question or hypotheses for research; or identifying similarities and contrasts with previous readings. The essential component of these papers is your own argument.

All memos are due by 4pm on the Tuesday before the relevant class. These papers must be submitted to me by email in pdf format. The document title must use the 'PP-lastname-M#.pdf' format (e.g., my third memo would be named "PP-Pietryka-M3.pdf"). The body of each memo must not exceed one single spaced page, with 12-point serif font and one-inch margins. References should use APSA style with the reference list on a separate page. Include your name and date on the first line of the memo but do not include a title page.

FINAL PAPER (30%) Students must write a final paper that includes the introduction, theory, and research design of an original research project. Students do not need to collect nor analyze data for the project. Students should visit me during office hours early in the semester for guidance on picking a suitable topic. As the semester progresses, students should seek guidance from me and their peers about their theory and research design. More details will be available as the semester progresses. My hope is that students with interest in pursuing political psychology in their own research will be able to carry out these experimental designs later in their graduate careers.

FINAL PAPER PRESENTATION (10%): In one of the last two meetings of the course, each student will present their theory and research design from their final paper. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes and must include slides.

The final letter grade will be assigned according to the standard table:

93-100: A	87-89 : B+	80-82 : B-	73-76 : C	67-69 : D+	60-62 : D-
90-92 : A-	83-86 : B	77-79 : C+	70-72 : C-	63-66 : D	00-59 : F

3 POLICIES

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and ...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.)

Americans With Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, 850-644-9566 (voice), 850-644-8504 (TDD), sdrc@admin.fsu.edu, <http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

4 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 1
- Experiments Handbook, chapters 2-3
- Lavine, Howard. 2010. "A Sketch of Political Psychology."
- Leif D. Nelson, Joseph Simmons, and Uri Simonsohn. Psychology's Renaissance. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 69(1):null, 2018

WEEK 2: RATIONALITY, SELF-INTEREST, AND ALTRUISM

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 4
- Experiments Handbook, chapter 5
- Herbert A. Simon. Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science. *American Political Science Review*, 79:293–304, 1985
- Stanley Feldman and Marco R. Steenbergen. The Humanitarian Foundation of Public Support for Social Welfare. *American Journal of Political Science*, 45(3):658–677, 2001
- Ernst Fehr and Simon Gächter. Altruistic punishment in humans. *Nature*, 415(6868):137–140, 2002
- Lior Sheffer, Peter John Loewen, Stuart Soroka, Stefaan Walgrave, and Tamir Sheafer. Nonrepresentative Representatives: An Experimental Study of the Decision Making of Elected Politicians. *American Political Science Review*, pages 1–20, December 2017

WEEK 3: PERSONALITY AND TRAITS

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 2
- Alan S. Gerber, Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Shang E. Ha. Personality and Political Attitudes: Relationships across Issue Domains and Political Contexts. *American Political Science Review*, 104(1):111–133, February 2010
- Jeffery J. Mondak, Matthew V. Hibbing, Damarys Canache, Mitchell A. Seligson, and Mary R. Anderson. Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior. *American Political Science Review*, 104(1):85–110, February 2010
- Jack Block and Jeanne H. Block. Nursery school personality and political orientation two decades later. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 40(5):734–749, October 2006

- Samuel Greene and Graeme Robertson. Agreeable Authoritarians: Personality and Politics in Contemporary Russia. *Comparative Political Studies*, 50(13):1802–1834, November 2017
- Matthew T. Pietryka and Randall C. MacIntosh. ANES Scales Often Don't Measure What You Think They Measure – An ERPC2016 Analysis. Working Paper, December 2017.
 - Paper: https://matthewpietryka.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/pietryka_macintosh_171214.pdf
 - Supporting Information: https://matthewpietryka.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/si-pietryka_macintosh_171214.pdf

WEEK 4: AUTHORITARIANISM

- Stanley Feldman. Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism. *Political Psychology*, 24:41–74, 2003
- Karen Stenner. *The Authoritarian Dynamic*. Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, August 2005. **Chapter 2**
- John Duckitt. Authoritarianism and Group Identification: A New View of an Old Construct. *Political Psychology*, 10(1):63–84, 1989
- Marc Hetherington and Elizabeth Suhay. Authoritarianism, Threat, and Americans' Support for the War on Terror. *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(3):546–560, July 2011
- Lasse Laustsen and Michael Bang Petersen. Perceived Conflict and Leader Dominance: Individual and Contextual Factors Behind Preferences for Dominant Leaders. *Political Psychology*, 38(6):1083–1101, December 2017

WEEK 5: IDEOLOGY AND MASS BELIEF SYSTEMS

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 19
- For this meeting, I'll assume you are already familiar with Converse (1964). If you are familiar already, you do not need to read it again. If you have yet to read it, make sure to at least skim it: Philip Converse. The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Politics. *Ideology and Discontent*, pages 206–261, 1964
- John T. Jost, Jack Glaser, Arie W. Kruglanski, and Frank J. Sulloway. Political Conservatism as Motivated Social Cognition. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(3):339–375, 2003
- Stanley Feldman. Structure and Consistency in Public Opinion: the Role of Core Beliefs and Values. *American Journal of Political Science*, 32(2):416–440, 1988
- Jesse Graham, Jonathan Haidt, and Brian A. Nosek. Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96(5):1029–1046, May 2009
- Scott Clifford and Jennifer Jerit. How Words Do the Work of Politics: Moral Foundations Theory and the Debate over Stem Cell Research. *The Journal of Politics*, 75(3):659–671, July 2013

WEEK 6: IMPRESSIONS AND INFORMATION PROCESSING

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 5
- Experiments Handbook, chapter 13
- Milton Lodge, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation. *American Political Science Review*, 89:309–327, 1995
- Reid Hastie and Bernadette Park. The Relationship between Memory and Judgment Depends on Whether the Task is Memory-Based or On-Line. *Psychological Review*, 93:258–268, 1986

- Larry M. Bartels. Remembering to Forget: A Note on the Duration of Campaign Advertising Effects. *Political Communication*, 31(4):532–544, October 2014
- Alan S. Gerber, James G. Gimpel, Donald P. Green, and Daron R. Shaw. How Large and Long-lasting Are the Persuasive Effects of Televised Campaign Ads? Results from a Randomized Field Experiment. *American Political Science Review*, 105(1):135–150, February 2011

WEEK 7: HOT COGNITION: AFFECT, EMOTION, AND MOTIVATIONS

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 6
- Charles S. Taber and Milton Lodge. Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(3):755–769, 2006
- George E. Marcus and Michael B. MacKuen. Anxiety, Enthusiasm and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement During Presidential Campaigns. *American Political Science Review*, 87:672–685, 1993
- Eric W. Groenendyk and Antoine J. Banks. Emotional Rescue: How Affect Helps Partisans Overcome Collective Action Problems. *Political Psychology*, 35(3):359–378, 2014
- Thomas Wood and Ethan Porter. The Elusive Backfire Effect: Mass Attitudes’ Steadfast Factual Adherence. SSRN Scholarly Paper ID 2819073, Social Science Research Network, Rochester, NY, December 2017

WEEK 8: ATTITUDE STRENGTH AND AMBIVALENCE

- Lauren C. Howe and Jon A. Krosnick. Attitude Strength. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 68(1):327–351, 2017
- Thomas K. Srull and Robert S. Wyer. The Role of Category Accessibility in the Interpretation of Information About Persons: Some Determinants and Implications. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 37(10):1660–1672, 1979
- Russell H. Fazio. Attitudes as Object-Evaluation Associations: Determinants, Consequences, and Correlates of Attitude Accessibility. In *Attitude Strength: Antecedents and Consequences*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1995
- Scott J. Basinger and Howard Lavine. Ambivalence, Information, and Electoral Choice. *American Political Science Review*, 99:169–184, 2005
- Richard R. Lau. Construct accessibility and electoral choice. *Political Behavior*, 11(1):5–32, March 1989

WEEK 9: PERSUASION AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 9
- Experiments Handbook, chapter 10
- Daniel J. O’Keefe and Wolfgang Donsbach. Elaboration likelihood model. In *The International Encyclopedia of Communication*, pages 1475–1480. Blackwell, Malden, MA, 2008
- Serena Chen and Shelly Chaiken. The Heuristic-Systematic Model in Its Broader Context. In Shelly Chaiken and Yaacov Trope, editors, *Dual-process theories in social psychology*, pages 73–96. The Guilford Press, New York, 1999
- Dennis Chong and James N. Druckman. Dynamic Public Opinion: Communication Effects over Time. *American Political Science Review*, 104(4):663–680, 2010
- David E. Broockman and Daniel M. Butler. The Causal Effects of Elite Position-Taking on Voter Attitudes: Field Experiments with Elite Communication. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(1):208–221, January 2017

WEEK 10: UNCERTAINTY AND HEURISTICS

- James H. Kuklinski and Paul J. Quirk. Reconsidering the Rational Public: Cognition, Heuristics, and Mass Opinion. *Elements of Reason: Cognition, Choice, and the Bounds of Rationality*, pages 153–82, 2000
- Cindy D. Kam. Who Toes the Party Line? Cues, Values, and Individual Differences. *Political Behavior*, 27(2):163–182, June 2005
- Arthur Lupia. Shortcuts versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections. *American Political Science Review*, 88(1):63–76, 1994
- Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman. Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases. *Science*, 185(4157):1124–1131, September 1974
- John G. Bullock. Elite Influence on Public Opinion in an Informed Electorate. *The American Political Science Review*, 105(3):496–515, 2011
- Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan. Choice vs. Action: Candidate Ambiguity and Voter Decision Making. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 12(4):479–505, December 2017

WEEK 11: DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 21
- Experiments Handbook, chapter 19
- Lindsey Clark Levitan and Penny S. Visser. Social network composition and attitude strength: Exploring the dynamics within newly formed social networks. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45(5):1057–1067, September 2009
- William Minozzi, Michael A. Neblo, Kevin M. Esterling, and David M. J. Lazer. Field experiment evidence of substantive, attributional, and behavioral persuasion by members of Congress in online town halls. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(13):3937–3942, March 2015
- T. K. Ahn, Robert Huckfeldt, Alexander K. Mayer, and John Barry Ryan. Expertise and Bias in Political Communication Networks. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(2):357–373, April 2013
- Adam F. Simon and Tracy Sulkin. Discussion's Impact on Political Allocations: An Experimental Approach. *Political Analysis*, 10(4):403–412, November 2002

WEEK 12: SOCIALIZATION

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 3
- M. Kent Jennings. Residues of a Movement: The Aging of the American Protest Generation. *American Political Science Review*, VOL:367–382, 1987
- Jennifer Fitzgerald and K. Amber Curtis. Partisan Discord in the Family and Political Engagement: A Comparative Behavioral Analysis. *The Journal of Politics*, 74(1):129–141, January 2012
- M. Kent Jennings, Laura Stoker, and Jake Bowers. Politics Across Generations: Family Transmission Reexamined. *The Journal of Politics*, 71(3):782–799, 2009
- Christopher Blattman. From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda. *American Political Science Review*, 103(2):231–247, May 2009
- Noam Lupu and Leonid Peisakhin. The Legacy of Political Violence across Generations. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(4):836–851, October 2017

WEEK 13: GROUP IDENTITY AND CONFORMITY

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 23
- Solomon E. Asch and H. Guetzkow. Effects of group pressure upon the modification and distortion of judgments. *Groups, leadership, and men*, pages 222–236, 1951
- Lee Ross, Gunter Bierbrauer, and Susan Hoffman. The Role of Attribution Processes in Conformity and Dissent: Revisiting the Asch situation. *American Psychologist*, 31(2):148–157, 1976
- Henri Tajfel. Experiments in Intergroup Discrimination. *Scientific American*, 223(5):96–103, 1970
- Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom, Gizem Arıkan, and Marie Courtemanche. Religious Social Identity, Religious Belief, and Anti-Immigration Sentiment. *American Political Science Review*, 109(2):203–221, May 2015
- Katherine Cramer Walsh. Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective. *American Political Science Review*, 106(3):517–532, August 2012

WEEK 14: STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE

- Pol. Psych. Handbook, chapter 25
- Experiments Handbook, chapter 22
- Patricia G. Devine. Stereotypes and prejudice: Their automatic and controlled components. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 56(1):5, 1989
- Adam J. Berinsky and Tali Mendelberg. The Indirect Effects of Discredited Stereotypes in Judgments of Jewish Leaders. *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(4):845–864, 2005
- Stanley Feldman and Leonie Huddy. Racial Resentment and White Opposition to Race-Conscious Programs: Principles or Prejudice? *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(1):168–183, January 2005
- Ravi Bhavnani, Karsten Donnay, Dan Miodownik, Maayan Mor, and Dirk Helbing. Group Segregation and Urban Violence. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(1):226–245, January 2014

WEEK 15: IMPLICIT ATTITUDES

- Rory Truex and Daniel Tavana. Implicit Attitudes Towards an Authoritarian Regime. SSRN Scholarly Paper ID 2903620, Social Science Research Network, Rochester, NY, January 2017
- A. G. Greenwald, M. R. Banaji, and B. A. Nosek. Statistically small effects of the Implicit Association Test can have societally large effects. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 108(4):553–561, April 2015
- Nicholas A. Valentino, Fabian G. Neuner, and L. Matthew Vandenbroek. The Changing Norms of Racial Political Rhetoric and the End of Racial Priming. *The Journal of Politics*, October 2017
- Frederick L. Oswald, Gregory Mitchell, Hart Blanton, James Jaccard, and Philip E. Tetlock. Predicting Ethnic and Racial Discrimination: A Meta-analysis of Iat Criterion Studies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 105(2):171–192, August 2013
- Timothy J. Ryan. How Do Indifferent Voters Decide? The Political Importance of Implicit Attitudes. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(4):892–907, October 2017