

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGYPOSC 421
MW 3:35-4:50Professor David Redlawsk
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30
Or by appointmentDepartment of Political Science
& International Relations
344 Smith Hall
302-831-2357**Syllabus**

This course is designed to give students a sampling of the vast research into the connection between psychology and politics. When political scientists find themselves studying the attitudes and behavior of individual political actors, they often find themselves relying on theories adopted from psychology, especially social psychology. In this course, we will look at several areas where the study of politics is greatly enhanced by a psychological understanding. We will, however, focus on the political science aspect of the intersection, rather than the psychological side. Even so, in order to understand the political we must, to some degree, understand the psychological.

Political psychology is a broad and varied field of study. It touches on nearly every sub-field of political science, from mass behavior, to international relations, to comparative politics. We will look at research in four primary areas – personality, cognition, emotions, and prejudice/bias.

Throughout the class, our focus will be on the political applications of various psychological research. This is not a course in psychology so we will not get into the real nitty-gritty details of each theory that we apply. The ultimate purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the field, perhaps to stimulate your interest in this field for future study.

Course Requirements**Reading**

This course will include a great deal of reading; there are two required books and a number of other readings of current research in the field. Some of the readings pre-suppose some knowledge of statistics and methods that many of you may not yet have. In those cases, I will try to give an overview of the methods, and ask you to focus on the substantive conclusions in the work. While this may make some of the readings quite difficult, it will allow you to develop an understanding of the kind of research done in political psychology and will introduce you to many of the major journals used in our profession.

Participation

For this course to work well, all students must come to class prepared, having completed all assigned readings prior to class. Your course participation grade will depend upon evidence of your completion of the readings through participation in class discussions. While not everyone must participate every day, you should be prepared to contribute on a regular basis. Regular attendance is expected. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Discussion Leader

Each student will take the lead in class discussion during at least one period to as by the instructor. I will generally assign two people for each class with discussion leaders. You **MUST** coordinate your presentation of the material; I expect both students to be actively involved each day.

Leading in this case means providing the class with a 10-minute summary of the reading for the day. This summary **MUST** identifying at least three questions intended to stimulate our discussion. These are **NOT** questions such as “What did the author say?” Instead, I expect questions about the theory or empirical work in the

readings. Often, a good idea is to try to tie the readings to something specifically going on in the news or daily life as a UD student. Your summary and key questions are to be posted on Sakai at least one day ahead of your assigned class. In class, you will present your summary and lead the overall discussion for the day with my help. Consider using active processes in class, rather than just standing at the front of the room. Perhaps there is some activity, or way to engage everyone, that could be part of your discussion leadership. Think broadly about this.

Homework

There will be 4 homework assignments as specified on the schedule. The details for each homework will be available on Sakai when assigned. Late homework will not be accepted and a zero will be assigned for it.

Exams

All students will take a midterm exam (in class) and a take home final exam.

Grading

Class Participation	15%
Discussion Leader	10%
Homework (4 total)	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Take Home Final Exam	30%

Required Book

You MUST use the edition listed. Other editions will not have the correct readings! While we will not read everything in this book, we will spend a lot of time with it.

Huddy, Leonie, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy (Eds). 2013. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. [HANDBOOK]

Additional readings are available on our Sakai. Anything not in the Handbook will be available through Sakai. You are responsible for all of these readings as well.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student. Plagiarism is using someone else's language without quotations and attribution or using someone else's idea (even in different language) without attribution. I expect that you will know and follow the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. If you are unsure about the standards of academic integrity, it is your responsibility to ask me. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University regulations.

Schedule

Feb 6 What is political psychology?
Read: Handbook, Ch 1

Feb 8 How do we learn about politics? Socialization
Read: Handbook Ch 3

Homework #1, Due Feb 15: Measuring psychological concepts

Feb 13 Special Post-Inauguration Panel – Where do we go now? Daugherty Hall, 4:00-6:00
Read: <http://www.npr.org/2017/01/31/512439121/trumps-executive-order-on-immigration-annotated>
<https://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2017/01/trump-immigration-order-muslims/514844/>

Personality and Politics

Feb 15 Why and how we study personality and politics

Read: Handbook, Ch 2

Feb 20 Personality and Politics: Studying political leaders

Read: Handbook, Ch 14

Keller, Jonathan W., and Dennis M. Foster. 2012. "Presidential Leadership Style and the Political Use of Force." *Political Psychology*, 33 (October): 581 - 598.

Feb 22 Personality and Politics: The Psychobiography

Read: Handbook, Ch 15

Renshon, S. A. (2011), Redemption, Fairness, and the Politics of Transformation in the Obama Presidency. *Political Psychology*, 32: 1035–1057. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9221.2011.00851.x

Feb 27 Going beyond Freud and Psychodynamics: The Big 5 Personality Inventory (BFPI)

Homework #2, Due Mar 6. Is it Personality or Situation?

Read: Mondak, et al., 2010. Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior, *American Political Science Review*

The Mind of Donald Trump, from The Atlantic

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/06/the-mind-of-donald-trump/480771/>

Mar 1 Conformance and Obedience MOVIE – OBEDIENCE: MILGRAM EXPERIMENT

Read: Ash, Solomon E. 1955. Opinions and Social Pressure. *Scientific American*, 193 (5): 31-35.

Milgram, Stanley. 1963. Behavioral Study of Obedience. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 67(4): 371-378.

<http://www.gina-perry.com/2015/05/09/screentest-for-obedience-milgrams-film/>

Attitudes and Political Cognition

Mar 6 The psychology of attitudes

Read: Houghton, *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases*, Ch 9

LaPiere, Attitudes versus Actions, *Social Forces*, 1934.

Mar 8 Political ideology

Read: Handbook, Ch 19

Kinder, Donald R. 1993. "Coming to Grips with the Holy Ghost." In Kinder and Palfrey (eds.), *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*. Pages 43-51.

Mar 13 Belief systems

Read: Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David E. Apter (Ed.) *Ideology and discontent* (pp 206-261). New York: Free Press. Reprinted in *Critical Review* 18.1-3 (Winter 2006): 1-74.

Mar 15 Political Information Processing

Read: Handbook Ch 17

Mar 20 Rational models of political behavior: how *should* we decide?
Read: Handbook Ch 4

Mar 22 Behavioral Decision Theory: How *do* we decide?
Read: Handbook Ch 5

Mar 27/29 *Spring Break*

Apr 3 Heuristics and Biases

Homework #3, Due April 10: Are we rational? Should we be rational?

Read: Quattrone, George A. and Amos Tversky. 1988. "Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice." *American Political Science Review*, 82 (September): 719-736.

Lau, Richard R. and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making, *AJPS*

Apr 5 **Midterm Exam (in class)**

Emotions

Apr 10 Thinking about Affect and Emotions
Read: Handbook, Ch 6

Houghton, *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases*, Ch 10

Apr 12 The Importance of Emotions
Read: Damasio, Antonio, *Descartes' Error*, Chs 2, 3, 4

Apr 17 Emotions and Decision Making
Read: Marcus, George E., W. and Michael B. MacKuen. 1993. Anxiety, Enthusiasm and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement during Political Campaigns. *American Political Science Review*, 87(3): 672-685.

Redlawsk, David P. 2002. Hot Cognition or Cool Consideration, *Journal of Politics*.

Apr 19 Emotions: Good guys or bad guys?
Read: Gadarian, Shana Kushner and Bethany Albertson. 2013. Anxiety, Immigration and the Search for Information. *Political Psychology*.

Rolling Stone, Living in an age of fear. http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/features/why-were-living-in-the-age-of-fear-w443554?utm_source=email

Apr 24 Motivated Reasoning and Facts
Read: Miller, Joanne M., Kyle L. Saunders, Christina E. Farhart. 2016. Conspiracy Endorsement as Motivated Reasoning: The Moderating Roles of Political Knowledge and Trust. *American Journal of Political Science*, 60: 824-844. (Sakai)

Kahan, Daniel. 2017. Science Curiosity and Political Information Processing (Sakai)

Group Identity and Prejudice

Apr 26 MOVIE: Quite Rage: The Stanford Prison Experiment

Homework #4, Due May 3: Take the Implicit Attitudes Test (IAT).

Read: Zimbardo, P. G., Haney, C., Banks, W. C., & Jaffe, D. 1974. The Mind is a Formidable Jailer: A Pirandellian Prison. *New York Times Magazine*, Section 6, 36. (Sakai)

May 1 What do we mean by group identity?

Read: Handbook Ch 23

May 3 Prejudice and Politics

Read: Handbook Ch 25

Can we really measure implicit bias? <http://www.chronicle.com/article/Can-We-Really-Measure-Implicit/238807>

May 8 Race and Gender in Elections

Read: Schaffner, B. F. (2011), Racial Salience and the Obama Vote. *Political Psychology*, 32: 963–988.

Brian Schaffner analysis of 2016 – race/gender/economic anxiety

Sears, David O., Colette Van Laar, Mary Carrillo, and Rick Kosterman. 1997. “Is It Really Racism? The Origins of White Americans’ Opposition to Race-Targeted Policies.” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 61 (Spring): 16 - 53.

May 10 Social Dominance

Read: Pratto, Felicia, et al. 1994. Social Dominance Orientation: A Personality Variable Predicting Social and Political Attitudes, *JPSP*

Sidanius, James and Felicia Pratto. 2012. Social Dominance Theory

May 15 Authoritarianism

Read: Feldman, Stanley. 2003. “Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism.” *Political Psychology*, 24 (March): 41-74.

Gibson, James L. 2008. “Intolerance and Political Repression in the United States: A Half-Century after McCarthyism.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 52 (January): 96 -108.

Take Home Final Exam

Important University Links:

Sakai: <https://sakai.udel.edu/portal>

Academic Calendar: <http://www.udel.edu/registrar/cal/main.html>

Student Guide (including Code of Conduct): <http://www1.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/index.html>

Office of Disability Support Services: <http://www.udel.edu/ADA/index.shtml>

Important Class Links:

The International Society for Political Psychology: <http://ispp.org/>

The Center for the Study of Political Psychology: <http://www.polisci.umn.edu/cspp/>

Social Psychology Links: <http://www.socialpsychology.org/social.htm>