

Political Psychology
Political Science 100M
Center 113

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Spring 2009
Social Science Building 367
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Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

My Mission as a Teacher:

“To enable my students to learn joyfully, think clearly, read carefully, and write well.”

Abstract

Beliefs about how people think about politics have been at the core of theories of politics since the ancients. In this course, we will begin with a survey of important theories of political psychology from the past century. We will focus mainly on hypotheses about how people develop their political attitudes and on the methods used to test those hypotheses. Twentieth century researchers were constrained to observing behavior and relied on surveys, interviews, and simple experiments to make inferences about the political mind. The second half of the course will look at the future of political psychology. We will learn about cutting edge insights from fields like neuroscience, genetics, computational modeling, and evolutionary theory. And, we will ask how those insights should inform our understanding of political cognition, affect, and behavior.

Books

Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment (2000) (\$18.90)
George E. Marcus, W. Russell Neuman, Michael Mackuen
A General Theory of Love (2000) (\$10.17)
Thomas Lewis, Fari Amini, Richard Lannon
The Nature and Origin of Mass Opinion (1992) (\$24.99)
John Zaller

Course Reader Available at:

University Readers
www.universityreaders.com
(800) 200-3908

Topics & Readings

Meeting 1 (Monday, March 30th) – Psychoanalytic Approaches

Vamik D. Volkan. “Bosnia-Herzegovina: Ancient Fuel of a Modern Inferno.” *Mind and Human Interaction* (1996) 7, p. 110-127 (17 pages)

Meeting 2 (Wednesday, April 1st) – No Class

Meeting 3 (Friday, April 3rd) – No Class

Meeting 4 (Monday, April 6th) – Rational Choice Theory

Anthony Downs (1957) *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 1 & 3 (31 pages)
Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 1 (15 pages)

Meeting 5 (Wednesday, April 8th) – Philip Converse’s and His Legacy

Philip E. Converse. “The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics.” (1964) (55 pages)
Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 2 (18 pages)

Meeting 6 (Friday, April 10th) – Philip Converse’s and His Legacy (continued)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 3 (31 pages)

Meeting 7 (Monday, April 13th) – No Class

Meeting 8 (Wednesday, April 15th) – Schema Theory

Robert Axelrod (1973) “Schema Theory: An Information Processing Model of Perception and Cognition” (19 pages)

“Where is the Schema? Going Beyond the “S” Word in Political Psychology.” James H. Kuklinski; Robert C. Luskin; John Bolland. (1991) (16 pages).

Meeting 9 (Friday, April 17th) – Racial Attitudes

First Paper Due

James Sidanius (1993) “The Psychology of Group Conflict and the Dynamics of Oppression: A Social Dominance Approach.” In S. Iyengar & W. J. McGuire (Eds.), *Explorations in Political Psychology* pp. 183-219. Durham: Duke University Press. (37 pages)

Meeting 10 (Monday, April 20th) – The Online Model

“An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation.” Milton Lodge; Kathleen M. McGraw; Patrick Stroh. *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 83, No. 2. (Jun., 1989), pp. 399-419 (21 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 4 (34 pages)

Meeting 11 (Wednesday, April 22nd) – Zaller’s Theory

John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 1-3 (53 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 5 (21 pages)

Meeting 12 (Friday, April 24th) – Discussion

- Meeting 13 (Monday, April 27th) – Zaller’s Theory (continued)
John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 4-5 (44 pages)
- Meeting 14 (Wednesday, April 29th) – Zaller’s Theory (continued)
John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 6-7 (54 pages)
- Meeting 15 (Friday, May 1st) – Discussion and Midterm Review
- Meeting 16 (Monday, May 4th) – **Midterm**
- Meeting 17 (Wednesday, May 6th) – Affective Intelligence
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 1-3) (45 pages)
- Meeting 18 (Friday, May 8th) – Affective Intelligence (cont.)
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 4-5) (40 pages)
- Meeting 19 (Monday, May 11th) – Affective Intelligence (cont.)
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 6-7) (46 pages)
- Meeting 20 (Wednesday, May 13th) – Neuropolitics
Schreiber & Iacoboni (2004) Evaluating Political Questions: Evidence from Functional Brain Imaging (42 pages)
- Meeting 21 (Friday, May 15th) – Neuropolitics
Fowler and Schreiber (2008) Biology, Politics, and the Emerging Science of Human Nature (3 pages)
Schreiber et al (2009) Red Brain, Blue Brain: Evaluative Processes Differ in Republicans and Democrats (15 pages)
- Meeting 22 (Monday, May 18th) – Evolution of Machiavellian Intelligence
Orbell et al. (2004) “‘Machiavellian’ Intelligence as a Basis for the Evolution of Cooperative Dispositions.” American Political Science Review (15 pages)
- Meeting 23 (Wednesday, May 20th) – Genes and Attitudes
Alford et al “Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?” American Political Science Review (2005) (15 pages)
- Meeting 24 (Friday, May 22nd) – Discussion
- Meeting 25 (Monday, May 25th) – Genes and Environment
Hatemi et al “Genetic and Environmental Transmission of Political Attitudes Over a Life Time.” Journal of Politics (2009) (43 pages)
- Meeting 26 (Wednesday, May 27th) – Genes and Partisanship
Dawes and Fowler “Partisanship, Voting, and the Dopamine D2 Receptor Gene” Journal of Politics (2009) (30 pages)
- Meeting 27 (Friday, May 29th) – Discussion

Meeting 28 (Monday, June 1st) – Race Perception

Golby et al. “Differential Responses in the Fusiform Region to Same-Race and Other-Race Faces.” *Nature Neuroscience* (2001) (6 pages)

Lieberman et al. “An fMRI investigation of race-related amygdala activity in African-American and Caucasian-American individuals.” *Nature Neuroscience* (2005) (3 pages)

Meeting 29 (Wednesday, June 3rd) – Physiological measures

Second Paper Due

Mutz & Reeves “The New Video Malaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust” *American Political Science Review* (2005) (15 pages)

Meeting 30 (Friday, June 5th) – Discussion

Final Exam (Friday, June 12th) – 11:30 a.m. – 2:29 p.m.

Assignments & Grading

40% -- Two Papers (5 pages and 10 pages)

25% -- Midterm Exam

25% -- Final Exam

10% -- Five Quizzes (you can drop one)

D Regurgitation – Like an infant, you are good at spitting it back out.

C Basic – Applying the facts and skills "as is."

B Intermediate – Applying the facts and skills to new problems or situations.

A Advanced – Asking counter-factual questions, modifying operative principles to illustrate command of the core concepts in challenging contexts.

Grade Changes and Extensions

All requests for grade changes must be made formally to your teaching assistant. Requests must be typed, double spaced, and include precise textual citations that support your contention. A review of any grade may result in either a higher or a lower grade. Extensions on assignments and make-up exams will only be granted in cases of documented illness or family medical emergencies. Please contact your teaching assistant as soon as possible if you need to request one.

Late Policy

Papers are due at the **beginning** of class. 2% bonus if an assignment is turned in more than 25 hours early. A 5% penalty applies for any papers turned in after the beginning of class, with a 5% additional penalty for each day an assignment is turned in late. No papers will be accepted electronically. A paper is not submitted until I have a physical copy of it.

Plagiarism

Fidelity to ones’ own ideas and the ideas of others dictates that proper citation be made for any work or idea of another. If I believe that you have violated this principle, I will change from being your advocate to being your prosecutor and I will seek the strongest penalty consistent with university policy.