

# political psychology

PSCI 7131  
FALL 2019  
THURSDAYS, 2:00-4:30 P.M.  
KETCHUM 1B31

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS, 2-4 P.M.

In this course, we will consider how people think and feel about politics, investigating the psychological underpinnings of the political behavior of citizens. We will start with an overview of the field of political psychology and some of the ways that questions in this field are answered. 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 the power of social identity, the reasons why people dislike other groups, the psychological roots of political conflict, and the routes to cooperation and tolerance.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

Course readings will be drawn from several texts as well as journal articles. Book chapters will be accessible via the course website.

- Huddy, Leonie, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy. 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press. (available as an e-book from the library website)
- Jardina, Ashley. 2019. *White Identity Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kahneman, Daniel. 2011. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Kinder, Donald R., and Nathan P. Kalmoe. 2017. *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative: Ideological Innocence in the American Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mason, Lilliana. 2018. *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## CANVAS IS YOUR FRIEND

This syllabus, assignments, and other exciting material can be accessed on the class website on [canvas.colorado.edu](http://canvas.colorado.edu).

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **PARTICIPATION** (40% of your final grade)

One important prerequisite of participation is class attendance. Class attendance is vital and required.

It is essential to read all of the assigned readings and think carefully about what you have read in advance of the class session. Frantically skimming the articles in the minutes before class begins will limit the quality of our class discussion and impede your ability to learn anything useful. Your education and our class discussion of the readings will both benefit from your careful reading of the articles as well as the time you spend in advance of class reflecting on what you have read and learned.

You will also be expected to actively participate in class discussions in a thoughtful way.

### **LEADERSHIP OF CLASS DISCUSSION** (15% of your final grade)

For three weeks during the semester, you will be responsible for leading class discussion. Your goal is to ensure that the class engages in thoughtful reflection about what we can learn from that week's readings. How you do this is up to you (and your fellow discussion leader). Your grade will reflect the quality of your preparation, as well as the quantity and quality of class discussion you generate. You will also be asked to turn in a short memo outlining your plan for discussion leadership for each session you lead.

### **RESEARCH PAPER** (worth 45% of your final grade)

You will also be asked to develop a research paper that tests an interesting question about political psychology. This paper should follow the format of the kinds of academic papers read in class – including development of a research question, a review of relevant literature, theory, tests of these explanations, and interpretation of what you find. Expectations for the research paper are outlined in a separate handout.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

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](http://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](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode). Academic dishonesty will result in an F in the course and referral to the Honor Court 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).

# political psychology

## 1. ABOUT POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Thursday, September 5

*Introduction to the course and the study of political psychology*

- *general background on the study of political behavior:* Kinder, Donald R. 2004. "Pale Democracy: Opinion and Action in Postwar America." In Edward D. Mansfield and Richard Sisson, eds., *The Evolution of Political Knowledge*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press.
- Rahn, Wendy M., John L. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Rudolph. 2002. "Political Psychology and Political Science." In James H. Kuklinski, ed., *Thinking about Political Psychology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Huddy, Leonie, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy. 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

## 2. POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Thursday, September 12

*Parental socialization, how we develop our political orientations*

- Sears, David O., and Christia Brown. 2013. "Childhood and Adult Political Development." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jennings, M. Kent, Laura Stoker, and Jake Bowers. 2009. "Politics across Generations: Family Transmission Reexamined." *The Journal of Politics* 71:782-799.
- Beck, Paul Allen, and M. Kent Jennings. 1982. "Pathways to Participation." *American Political Science Review* 76(1):94-108.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources and Growth in Young Adulthood." *American Political Science Review* 96:41-57.
- Holbein, John B. 2017. "Childhood Skill Development and Adult Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 111:572-583.
- Fox, Richard, and Jennifer Lawless. 2014. "Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition." *American Political Science Review* 108:499-519.

## 3. BIOLOGICAL ROOTS OF BEHAVIOR

Thursday, September 19

*Genetics and the roots of political behavior, physiological response, evolutionary origins of political behavior*

- Funk, Carolyn L. 2013. "Genetic Foundations of Political Behavior." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99:153-167.
- Hatemi, Peter K., Carolyn L. Funk, Sarah E. Medland, Hermine M. Maes, Judy L. Silberg, Nicholas G. Martin, and Lindon J. Eaves. 2009. "Genetic and Environmental Transmission of Political Attitudes Over a Life Time." *Journal of Politics* 71:1141-1156.
- Oxley, Douglas R., Kevin B. Smith, John R. Alford, Matthew V. Hibbing, Jennifer L. Miller, Mario Scalora, Peter K. Hatemi, and John R. Hibbing. 2008. "Political Attitudes Vary with Physiological Traits." *Science* 321:1667-1670.
- Ksiazkiewicz, Aleksander. Forthcoming. "Conservative Larks, Liberal Owls: The Relationship between Chronotype and Political Ideology." *Journal of Politics*.
- Petersen, Michael Bang. 2012. "Social Welfare as Small-Scale Help: Evolutionary Psychology and the Deservingness Heuristic." *American Journal of Political Science* 56:1-16.

## 4. PERSONALITY

**Thursday, September 26**

*Political personality among citizens and elites, the Big Five personality traits, authoritarianism*

- Caprara, Gian Vittorio, and Michele Vecchione. 2013. "Personality Approaches to Political Behavior." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gerber, Alan S., Gregory Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Shang E. Ha. 2010. "Personality and Political Attitudes: Relationships across Issue Domains and Political Contexts." *American Political Science Review* 104:111-133.
- Mondak, Jeffery J., Matthew V. Hibbing, Damarys Canache, Mitchell A. Seligson, and Mary R. Anderson. 2010. "Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior." *American Political Science Review* 104:85-110.
- Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism." *Political Psychology* 24:41-74.
- Sheffer, Lior, Peter John Loewen, Stuart Soroka, Stefaan Walgrave, and Tamir Sheafer. 2018. "Nonrepresentative Representatives: An Experimental Study of the Decision Making of Elected Politicians." *American Political Science Review* 112:302-321.
- Klingler, Jonathan D., Gary E. Hollibaugh Jr., and Adam J. Ramey. 2019. "What I Like About You: Legislator Personality and Legislator Approval." *Political Behavior* 41:499-525.

## 5. IDEOLOGY AND ORGANIZING BELIEFS

**Thursday, October 3**

*Ideology and the structure of political beliefs*

- Feldman, Stanley. 2013. "Political Ideology." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter, ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: The Free Press.
- Conover, Pamela Johnston, and Stanley Feldman. 1981. "The Origins and Meaning of Liberal/Conservative Self-Identifications." *American Journal of Political Science* 25:617-645.
- Kinder, Donald R., and Nathan P. Kalmoe. 2017. *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative: Ideological Innocence in the American Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## 6. INFORMATION PROCESSING

Thursday, October 10

*Memory, associative networks, information processing, impression formation, the role of information in evaluation*

- recommended: McGraw, Kathleen M. 2000. "Contributions of the Cognitive Approach to Political Psychology." *Political Psychology* 21:805-832.
- Steenbergen, Marco R., and Milton Lodge. 2003. "Process Matters: Cognitive Models of Candidate Evaluation." In Michael B. MacKuen and George Rabinowitz, eds., *Electoral Democracy*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8.
- Zaller, John R., and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions Versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36:579-616.
- Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89:309-326.
- Fiske, Susan, Donald R. Kinder, and W. Michael Larter. 1983. "The Novice and the Expert: Knowledge-Based Strategies in Political Cognition." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 19:381-400.

## 7. EMOTION

Thursday, October 17

*Emotions and their consequences*

- Brader, Ted, and George E. Marcus. 2013. "Emotion and Political Psychology." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- MacKuen, Michael, Jennifer Wolak, Luke Keele, and George Marcus. 2010. "Civic Engagements: Resolute Partisanship or Reflective Deliberation." *American Journal of Political Science* 54:440-458.

## 8. HOT COGNITION AND AUTOMATICITY

Thursday, October 24

*Hot cognition, automaticity, affect*

- Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## 9. INFERENCE AND HEURISTICS

Thursday, October 31

*Inference, heuristics, short cuts, peripheral vs. central processing*

- Conover, Pamela Johnston, and Stanley Feldman. 1989. "Candidate Perception in an Ambiguous World: Campaigns, Cues, and Inference Processes." *American Journal of Political Science* 33:912-940.
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45:951-71.
- Kahneman, Daniel. 2011. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

## 10. MOTIVATION AND BIAS

Thursday, November 7

*Motivated reasoning, bias in decision-making*

- Kunda, Ziva. 1990. "The Case for Motivated Reasoning." *Psychological Bulletin* 108(3):480-498.
- Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3):755-769.
- Iyengar, Shanto, and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. "Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59: 690–707.
- Mason, Lilliana. 2018. *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- *recommended*: Iyengar, Shanto, Yphtach Lelkes, Matthew Levendusky, Neil Malhotra, and Sean J. Westwood. 2019. "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 22:129-146.

## 11. PERSUASION AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

Thursday, November 14

*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.
- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 7-9.
- Feldman, Stanley, Leonie Huddy, and George E. Marcus. 2012. "Limits of Elite Influence on Public Opinion." *Critical Review* 24:489-503.
- Bullock, John G. 2011. "Elite Influence on Public Opinion in an Informed Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 105:496-515.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Howard Lavine. 2005. "Ambivalence, Information, and Electoral Choice." *American Political Science Review* 99:169-184.
- Ryan, Timothy J. 2017. "How Do Indifferent Voters Decide? The Political Importance of Implicit Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 61:892-907

## FALL BREAK

Thursday, November 21

## 12. SOCIAL IDENTITY

Thursday, November 28

*Social identities, in-group/out-group sentiments*

- Huddy, Leonie. 2013. "From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

- 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.
- Jardina, Ashley. 2019. *White Identity Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## 13. PREJUDICE AND GROUP CONFLICT

**Thursday, December 5**

*Understanding the roots of prejudice and group conflict, racialization and discrimination*

- Kinder, Donald R. 2013. "Prejudice and Politics." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Devine, Patricia G. 1989. "Stereotypes and Prejudice: Their Automatic and Controlled Components." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 56:5-18.
- 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* 61:16-53.
- Banks, Antoine J., and Nicholas A. Valentino. 2012. "Emotional Substrates of White Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 286-297.
- Tesler, Michael. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Race and Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 690-704.

## 14. POLITICAL TOLERANCE AND COOPERATION

**Thursday, December 12**

*Origins of political tolerance, limiting prejudice, routes to cooperative outcomes*

- Gibson, James L. 1998. "A Sober Second Thought: An Experiment in Persuading Russians to Tolerate." *American Journal of Political Science* 42:819-850.
- Hibbing, John R. and John R. Alford. 2004. "Accepting Authoritative Decisions: Humans as Wary Cooperators." *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 62-76.
- Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer. 2008. "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 102:33-48.
- Paluck, Elizabeth Levy. 2009. "Reducing Intergroup Prejudice and Conflict Using the Media: A Field Experiment in Rwanda." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 96(3):574-87.
- Simonovits, Gábor, Gábor Kézdi, and Péter Kardos. 2018. "Seeing the World Through the Other's Eye: An Online Intervention Reducing Ethnic Prejudice." *American Political Science Review* 112:186-93.