

P SC 3473: Political Psychology

Professor Shortle
Office: 214 Dale Hall Tower
Email: allysonshortle@ou.edu
Phone: 405-325-0482

MW 1:30PM-2:45PM
GLRD 2020
Office Hours:
Mon. 4-5PM (or by apt.)

Course Description:

This course will present an overview of political psychology, an interdisciplinary field that utilizes psychological theories to explain political behavior and political events. Specifically, we will delve into the following questions: 1) Why do people engage in hostile, aggressive, and ‘evil’ behavior; 2) Why is there intergroup conflict; 3) Why does the media have such a powerful impact on political attitudes; 4) What drives political ideology, partisan affiliation, and voting behavior; and 5) What explains the behavior of political elites? In order to answer these questions we will engage some of the most important debates within the fields of political psychology and political science, such as the relative power of the situation vs. the individual, whether human beings are truly rational actors, the extent to which human beings exercise free will, and whether it is possible for citizens to follow a moral code typified by such values as tolerance, fairness, and justice.

Required Text:

Brader, Ted. 2006. *Campaigning for Hearts and Minds: How Emotional Appeals in Political Ads Work*. University of Chicago Press.

Cain, Susan. 2012. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking*. Crown.

Houghton, David Patrick. 2009. *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals, and Cases*. New York: Routledge.

Kahneman, Daniel. 2011. *Thinking: Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux.

Summary of Course Requirements and Calculation of Final Grade:

1. Group Presentation: 20%
2. Research Paper: 30%
3. Quizzes (2 X 15%): 30%
4. Discussion Points: 10%
5. Participation: 10%

CLASS SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

January	
Week 1:	12, 14
Week 2:	(19) , 21
Week 3:	26, 28
February	
Week 4:	2, 4
Week 5:	9, 11
Week 6:	16, 18
Week 7:	23, 25
March	
Week 8:	2, 4
Week 9:	9, 11
Week 10:	(16) , (18)
Week 11:	23, 25
End March/Early April	
Week 12:	30, 1
Week 13:	6, 8
Week 14:	(13) , (15)
Week 15:	20, 22
Week 16:	27, 29

() indicates NO CLASS

To Get an A in this course, you should be an active participant in class, complete all of the readings, and demonstrate a mastery of the material through your written work and a proven ability to think critically about the subject of immigration politics. The quality of your work- exams, participation, and papers- is the main determinant of whether you earn an A. I urge you to try to share your thoughts, in a productive way, in whichever format makes you feel comfortable. There are various ways you can share ideas you have about the material or class discussion with me, to demonstrate your progress throughout the course: by participating in class discussion, by email, or by visiting me during office hours. Please share your thoughts! As an upper level course, the success of this class depends on full class participation. I will set up a D2L file, and expect you to post three discussion points before class every week. The best comments will receive extra points towards their participation grade.

January	
Week 1:	12, 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • “Popular interpretations in mainstream press”—“Blink” D2L reading
Week 2:	(19), 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Political Psychology? • READ: Ch. 1 - 3 of Pol Psych • READ: Jordan, Christian H. and Mark P. Zanna. 2004. “How to Read A Journal Article in Social Psychology.” In John T. Jost and Jim Sidanius (Eds.), <i>Political Psychology</i>. New York: Psychology Press. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~sspencer/psych253/readart.html
Week 3:	26, 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology as a Necessary Alternative to Rational Choice • How Word Order is Important to Understanding Political Behavior • READ: Kahneman, Daniel, and Amos Tversky. 1984. “Choices, Values, and Frames..” <i>American Psychologist</i> 39(4):341-350 • READ: Kahneman Chapters 1 & 2
February	
Week 4:	2, 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Leaders • READ: Kahneman Chapters 3 & 4
Week 5:	9, 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality & Disposition • READ: Chapters 8 & 11 in Pol Psych • READ: Quiet—whole book
<u>Week 6:</u>	16, 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Exam
Week 7:	23, 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Conformity, Obedience, & the Foundations of Evil • Is there such thing as Altruism? • READ: Chapters 4-6 in Pol Psych • Ted Talk
March	
Week 8:	2, 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Bases of Decision-Making • Civil Liberties, Intolerance, and Asimov • READ: Chapter 9 of Pol Psych

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • READ: TBD
Week 9:	9, 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roots of Racism in the US • READ: Chapter 14 in Pol Psych • READ: TBD
Week 10:	(16), (18)
Week 11:	23, 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect & Emotions • Campaigns • READ: Chapter 10 of Pol Psych • READ: Chapters 1 to 5 of Campaigning for Hearts and Minds
End March/Early April	
Week 12:	30, 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting Behavior • Topics in International Relations • Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, & Genocide • READ: Chapter 12, 13, 15, & 16 of Pol Psych •
<u>Week 13:</u>	6, 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Exam
Week 14:	(13), (15)
Week 15:	20, 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations
Week 16:	27, 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations

GRADED ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Group presentation: 10%

- As a group, choose a topic that interests you in political psychology
- It can be related to the topics discussed in class, but should be original, and not overlap directly with the course readings
- Suggestions: You may run a political psychological experiment (on student body members who have agreed) and present the results to the class
- Suggestions: You may choose a presentation of more recent research that has been conducted
- Also, feel free to get creative here. I'm looking for originality while you practice your public speaking skills. You can design a political psychology-based website, demonstrate psychological drivers of political attitudes using a learning exercise, etc.
- Meet with the professor if you are in need of help.

Research Paper: 30%

- Based on an interesting puzzle/question related to political psychology.
- Two options:
 1. Argument Piece: Must be related to political psychology, and cite at least 5 credible sources. NOTE: a news article is not a credible source. While you can cite news articles in your paper, this will not count towards the 5 sources I want you to cite. See the librarian to understand what entails a credible academic source.
 2. Experiment or experimental design: The field of political psychology relies heavily on experimentation, so this could be your opportunity to explore both the benefits and the challenges of this research method. If you choose this option, you are expected to design, (and if you feel ambitious, you can implement, and analyze) an experiment. The particular research question/topic will be up to the individual student, but it is important that you try to explain a political behavior/attitude/event with some type of psychological theory (or theories). You will then write a five page paper that includes the following sections: introduction, lit review, hypotheses, empirical approach, (results if you implement the experiment and analyze data), and *implications*. Additional details about the experiment and the paper will be discussed in class. *Advice*: Refer to the Graham & Hole reading to inform your understanding of how an experiment should be conducted. Coming up with a novel research question takes a lot of work, sifting through research abstracts and peer reviewed articles, etc. Start early!!
- See me if you need more direction.

Quizzes (2 X 15%): 30%

- Multiple Choice and/or Essay
- Must give 24 hour notice if an exam will be missed, only for excused absences
 - "Excused" is to be determined by the professor, on a case-by-case basis
- Pen only, please

Discussion Points: 10%

- Discussion points are meant to be brief paragraphs illustrating your questions, comments, and insights into the readings.
- Post two discussion points before each Wednesday's class.
- Upload to D2L before 11:59PM of Tuesday of each week.
- Each discussion point earns you one point of your total grade.
- You need to post ten total, to receive full credit.
- Extra credit is given for high quality discussion points.

Participation: 10%

- Show up to every class
- Let your thoughts be known

NUMERICAL TO LETTER GRADE TRANSLATION:

A= 91-100

B= 81-90

C= 70-80

D= 60-69

F= 0-59

FUN POLICY: ALWAYS HAVE FUN TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL SCIENCE

NOTE POLICY: DO NOT ASK THE INSTRUCTOR FOR NOTES. BUT, TAKE THEM YOURSELF, AND REEP THE BENEFITS OF KNOWLEDGE BUILDING!

ATTENDANCE: MISSING MORE THAN THREE CLASSES VASTLY DIMINISHES YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE. MISSING MORE THAN FIVE CLASSES WITHOUT AN EXCUSE CAN RESULT IN A ZERO FOR PARTICIPATION.

MISSED EXAMS: If a university approved excusable, accommodations for a makeup exam will be made. Failure to give notice of absence during an exam can, and likely will, result in a zero. These will be determined on a case-by-case basis by your professor.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS:

In accordance with the University's Reasonable Accommodation Policy, any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Please see the instructor by the end of your first class to make arrangements. Requests for examinations should occur well before the exam date, and all communications should be done by email if possible, or in person if the student has in his or her possession forms to be signed and received by the disability center on campus.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

“It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.”

IMPORTANT NOTE: Your professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus at any time. The student should be aware that the reading schedule could change according to the material we are able to cover during a single class. Keep informed! The best way to do this is by attending class regularly.