1 Course Description

This course is the undergraduate Introduction to Political Psychology. No background in political science or psychology is required, though those that do have experience in these areas are, of course, welcome and appreciated. The goal of the course is to introduce you to some of the major topics and questions in Political Psychology, such as:

- Where do our political beliefs come from?
- How do we decide who to vote for?
- How do emotions affect us? Should emotions affect our beliefs and actions?
- Are some types of personalities better suited to be President?
- Is it possible to ‘psychologically profile’ dictators?
- How do our leaders decide whether to go to war?

Along the way, as we delve into these and other topics, we will discuss methodology, and learn about how different approaches can yield different (and sometimes conflicting) answers. The course will consist of a combination of lectures, presentations by students and discussions.

2 Guidelines

For this specific class:

- If you have a question, or want to know if a reading is available, please check my website for any announcements and download the latest copy of the syllabus before emailing.
• If you ever have any questions, or are confused about something, please do not hesitate to come to office hours and meet with me. Please also consider making an appointment just to introduce yourself and tell me how the course is going. Office hours are Tuesdays between 1:30-3:15 PM, and you can make an appointment at the following website: [https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/jSWjsloX.html](https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/jSWjsloX.html). If you are unavailable at that time due to a conflict with another class, you can email me to schedule an appointment.

• You are responsible for the readings listed under each class.

• In terms of exams, you are responsible the all of the readings and anything discussed in class.

• If you have a disability or circumstance that could affect your performance, please contact me early in the semester so that we can consider accommodations. The McBurney Center for Disability Services can provide official documentation of disabilities.

• Obviously, academic misconduct is not tolerated. Please make sure you are familiar with the policies outlined by the Dean of Students.

• If you have any questions about anything related to the course, email me and I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours.

• One exception: I will not respond to emails sent the night before an assignment is due or before a midterm or final exam.

Some general guidelines that probably apply to any class you take:

• Do the readings in preparation for each class. If you miss one, don’t ignore it and move on, but make an effort to catch up.

• Come to class on time.

• It’s fine to use a computer to take notes, but please don’t bring your computer so you can write emails and read the news during class (it’s much more obvious than you realize).

• There are legitimate reasons to have to miss class, but if you must, please email me ahead of time to let me know.

### 3 Assignments

1. Weekly discussion questions

   • Each class, you will be expected to submit one discussion question on any of the readings assigned that week by no later than 3:00pm the day before class (so, each week on Monday and Wednesday). I will not evaluate the content of these questions, but they should either be a clarification question or a substantive question on the assigned readings that you think would be useful to discuss in class. These can be turned in via the course’s Learn @ UW course dropbox.
2. Two short response papers (2-3 pages each)
   • These papers are due at the beginning of class. You may select any two classes’ readings for the assignment. To complete the assignment, you will need to (1) summarize the reading(s) in no more than 2-3 paragraphs (2) provide an argument of some kind. The argument may concern a substantive critique (do you agree with the argument(s) put forth in the readings?) or a methodological one (is there something about the way the evidence was provided that was lacking?). Be as concrete as possible! These can be turned in via the course’s Learn @ UW course dropbox.

3. Midterm exam
4. Final exam

5. Complete and turn in the two assignments during the semester. They are both (short!) online surveys that you will take prior to the class where we discuss them.

4 Grading

Your final grade will be composed of:
   • 35% - Class Participation (includes 2 response papers + discussion questions)
   • 25% - In-class Midterm
   • 40% - Final Exam

5 Readings Used in the Course

Journal articles and edited book chapters - These are generally available through the UW Library website. If they are not accessible online, then there will be a clickable link on the syllabus.

Textbooks- You may wish to purchase these, but readings will (unless noted) be available online.

1. Introduction to Political Psychology (2nd ed.), Martha L. Cottam, Beth Dietz-Uhler, Elena Mastors & Thomas Preston (Taylor & Francis, 2010).
   ⇒ Abbreviation on list of reading(s): ITPP.

   ⇒ Abbreviation on list of reading(s): PP.

   ⇒ Abbreviation on list of reading(s): OHPP.
Schedule

1. Introduction [January 20]
   - NO READINGS

2. What is Political Psychology? [January 22]
   - ITPP Chapter 1: Political Psychology: Introduction and Overview, pp. 1-12

   - Experimental Methodology in Political Science (2002), Rose McDermott, Political Analysis 10: 325-342
   - Testosterone and Aggression in a Simulated Crisis Game (2007), Rose McDermott, Dominic Johnson, Jonathan Cowden & Stephen Rosen, ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 614/1: 15-33

4. How do you measure beliefs and perceptions? Part II: Case Studies [January 29]
   - When Public Statements Reveal Private Beliefs: Assessing Operational Codes at a Distance (2009), Jonathan Renshon, Political Psychology 30/4: 649-661

5. Where do Political Preferences Come from? [February 3]


- ITPP (Part of) Chapter 3: Cognition, Identity, Emotions and Attitudes, pp. 39-43 [link]

8. Priming and Framing [February 12]

- PP: Altering the Foundations of Support for the President Through Priming, John A. Krosnick & Donald R. Kinder, pp. 150-162 [link]
9. Emotions (I): Individual Level/Background [February 17]

- Affect and Emotion (2009), in Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases, David Patrick Houghton (Routledge), pp. 132-142 [link]
- Emotion Priming and Attributions for Terrorism: Americans’ Reactions in a National Field Experiment (2006), Deborah A. Small, Jennifer S. Lerner & Baruch Fischhoff, Political Psychology 27/2: 289-298

10. February 19: NO CLASS

11. Emotions (II): Implications for the Political System [February 24]

- PP: Anxiety, Enthusiasm and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement During Presidential Campaigns, George E. Marcus & Michael B. MacKuen, pp. 163-176 [NEED LINK]

12. Personality and Politics (I): Background and Big 5 [February 26]

⇒ Assignment 1: Take online “Big 5” Personality Test. Available at: http://www.personalitytest.org.uk/

13. Personality and Politics (II): Presidential Character and Personality [March 3]

- Selections from *Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House* (1992), James Barber (Prentice-Hall Press):
  - Presidential Character and How to Forsee, pp. 1-11.
  - Three Tragic Tales, pp. 12-47
  - The Active-Negative Presidents, ONLY pp. 48-53.


14. March 5: NO CLASS

15. Personality and Politics (III): The Authoritarian Personality and Social Dominance [March 10]

- PP: Social Dominance Theory: A New Synthesis, Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto, pp. 315-332 [link]


- Selections from *The Psychological Assessment of Political Leaders* (2005), edited by Jerrold M. Post (University of Michigan Press, MI):
  - Leader Personality Assessments in Support of Government Policy, Jerrold Post, pp. 39-61 [link]
  - Saddam Hussein of Iraq: A Political Psychology Profile, Jerrold M. Post, pp. 335-366 [link]
  - Saddam Hussein: Beliefs and Integrative Complexity, Stephen G. Walker, Mark Schafer, Michael D. Young & Peter Suedfeld, pp. 387–398 [link]
17. Midterm review [March 17]

18. In-class midterm [March 19]

19. Ideology and Belief Systems [March 24]
   ⇒ Assignment: Take online Implicit Association Test for Gender-Career. Available at: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html
   • PP: The Nature of Beliefs Systems in Mass Publics, Philip E. Converse, pp. 181-199
   • PP: Cognitive Style and Political Belief Systems in the British House of Commons, Philip E. Tetlock, pp. 230-240

20. Values and Trade-offs [March 26]
   • OHPP: Values, Ideology, and the Structure of Political Attitudes, Stanley Feldman, pp. 477-510


- Group Decision-Making (2009), in Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases, David Patrick Houghton (Routledge), pp. 69-82 [link]
- Selections from Presidential Decisionmaking in Foreign Policy: The Effective Use of Information and Advice, Alexander George (Westview Press, CO)
  - The President and His Advisers: Structure, Internal Processes, and Management of Small Groups, pp. 81-108. [link]
  - Multiple Advocacy, pp. 191-208. [link]
  - The Devil’s Advocate: Uses and Limitations, pp. 169-174. [link]

23. Group Psychology (III): Groupthink [April 14]

- Selections from Groupthink (1982), Irving Janis (Wadsworth Publishing):
  - Why so many miscalculations?, pp. 2-13. [link]
  - A Perfect Failure: The Bay of Pigs, pp. 14-47. [link]
  - The Groupthink Syndrome, pp. 174-197. [link]

24. Elite Decision-Making & Prospect Theory [April 16]


25. Psychology and International Relations (I): Background and an Application to Cuban Missile Crisis [April 21]


26. Psychology and International Relations (II): Terrorism [April 23]

- **PP**: The Psychology of Political Terrorism, Martha Crenshaw, pp. 411-431 [link]
- Selections from *The Mind of the Terrorist: The Psychology of Terrorism from the IRA to al-Qaeda*, Jerrold M. Post (Palgrave-Macmillan, NY)
  - Irish Republican Army, pp. 39-54 [NEED LINK]
  - Red Army Faction, pp. 121-132 [NEED LINK]
  - Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda Version 1.0, pp. 193-206 [NEED LINK]

27. Psychology and International Relations (III): Learning from History [April 28]

  - Analogical Reasoning in Foreign Affairs: Two Views, pp. 3-18. [link]
  - The AE Framework, pp. 19-46. [link]
  - Dien Bien Phu, pp. 148-173. [link]

28. Psychology and International Relations (III): Physical and Mental Illness [April 30]

- Selections from *Presidential Leadership, Illness and Decisionmaking* (2007), Rose McDermott (Cambridge University Press):
  - Aging, Illness and Addiction, pp. 19-44. [link]
  - The Exacerbation of Personality: Woodrow Wilson, pp. 45-83. [link]


30. Review & Discussion of Final Exam [May 7]