

Political Psychology

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sample Graduate Course Syllabus

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Course Description

This seminar covers the psychological foundations of political phenomena. We focus on a broad introduction to the field of political psychology. We will survey the major theoretical and methodological approaches that political scientists and psychologists have used to understand the political attitudes, decisions, and behavior of citizens, groups, and elites. The course will address questions like: What are the tools to look inside the hearts and minds of people? What is the role of environmental factors and life experiences in shaping political attitudes and behaviors? What is the role of biological factors in shaping political predisposition? What are the micro-foundations for different types of political attitudes and behaviors? As a potential contributor to the literature on political behavior, it is vital that, as you work through the reading, you consider what the future may hold for research on each week's topic.

Course Goals

This course is designed to help you learn how to use psychological theory to critically analyze and understand political phenomena in everyday life. By the end of this course, you will be able to feel comfortable reading articles in this area and understanding the approaches that were used. social sciences, incorporate them into your own work, and make unique and meaningful contributions both empirically and methodologically.

Attendance

This course meets once a week. I will not take attendance, but repeated absences without justification (defined by school policy) will be considered a reason to fail the course.

Participation

25% of your grade will be based on participation. Participation involves actively engaging in discussion during our meetings according to the course expectations, as well as attending to office hours, and other forms of participation that suit your learning style. I expect you read the materials carefully enough to provide a summary and compare it with other readings within the same week. We will discuss ways to adjust the participation policy to suit everyone's goals and interests in our first meeting.

25% of your grade will be based on your role as discussion leader. The discussion leader's job is to briefly summarize the material and identify critical discussion topics in the form of questions, reflections, or critiques. Based on enrollment I will determine a minimum of readings or weeks in which you will serve as discussion leader. If feasible, I will ask you to work in pairs in preparation to lead the discussion. You can choose to split the reading, or to collectively come up with talking points.

Final Paper

Your final assignment will be to write an extended pre-analysis plan. Ideally, the topic will be from one of the twelve topics, but I am open to others as well). The extended pre-analysis is similar to the pre-analysis plans that most political scientists write. Common templates include the EGAP (<http://egap.org/content/how-to-register>) and the OSF (<https://osf.io/registries>) registries. However, for the purposes of this course, I also expect you to include a section discussing the theoretical motivation for your pre-analysis plan. This is mostly so you can get better feedback. The final paper should be approximately 8 pages in length, use 12 pt Times New Roman font, be double-spaced, have one-inch margins, and include references (MLA or APA style). This will be 30% of the final grade.

You will also be assigned to provide written feedback on a project proposal, due on week 10. Your feedback should read like a reviewer or discussant report, summarizing the project, emphasizing its importance and contributions, as well as providing realistic and productive to improve. The feedback will be 10% of the final grade. On week 16, you will present your project to the class. This will be 10% of the final grade.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Kuklinski, J. H. 2001. "Prologue: Political Psychology and the Study of Citizens and Politics." In Kuklinski, J. H., & Chong, D. (Eds.), *Citizens and politics: Perspectives from political psychology*. Cambridge University Press.

Jost, J.T., & Sidanius, J. 2004. "Political psychology: An introduction." In J.T. Jost, & J. Sidanius (Eds.), *Political psychology: Key readings* (pp. 1-3). New York: Psychology Press/Taylor & Francis.

Huddy, L. Sears, D. and Levy, J. 2013. "Introduction: Theoretical Foundations of Political Psychology" in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (2nd ed.).

Osborne, D. and Sibley C. 2022. Osborne, D., & Sibley, C. G. (Eds.). *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 2: Survey Research

Tourangeau, Roger and Kenneth A. Rasinski. 1988. "Cognitive Processes Underlying Context Effects in Attitude Measurement." *Psychological Bulletin* 103(3):299-314.

Mondak, Jeffrey J. 2001. "Developing Valid Knowledge Scales." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(1):224-38.

Erikson, Robert S. and Kent L. Tedin. 2015. "Polling: The Scientific Assessment of Public Opinion." Chapter 2 in *American Public Opinion*.

Krosnick, J.A. 2018. "Assessing the Accuracy of Survey Research". In: Vannette, D., Krosnick, J. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Survey Research*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Week 3: Political Socialization

Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources and Growth in Young Adulthood." *American Political Science Review* 96(1):41-56.

Sapiro, Virginia. 2004. "Not Your Parents' Political Socialization: Introduction for a New Generation." *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 7 1-23.

Jennings, M. Kent. 2009. "Political Socialization." In Russell J. Dalton, and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*.

Callahan, Rebecca M., and Chandra Muller. 2013. "Adolescents' Families, Schools, and Communities: Shaping Political Engagement in Young Adulthood." In Callahan, Rebecca M., and Chandra Muller. *Coming of political age: American schools and the civic development of immigrant youth*. Russell Sage Foundation, 2013.

Week 4: Biology and Politics

Ksiazkiewicz, A. & Jung, S. 2020. The Biology of Political Decision Making. In D.P. Redlawsk (Ed.) *Oxford Encyclopedia of Political Decision Making*.

Haas, I. J., Warren, C., & Lauf, S. J. 2020. *Political Neuroscience: Understanding How the Brain Makes Political Decisions*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.

Settle, J. E., Hibbing, M. V., Anspach, N. M., Carlson, T. N., Coe, C. M., Hernandez, E., Peterson, J., Stuart, J., & Arceneaux, K. 2020. Political psychophysiology: A primer for interested researchers and consumers. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 39(1), 101–117.

Jung, Seyoung. Forthcoming. "Study of Oxytocin in Biopolitics." In *Biopolitics at 50 Years: Founding and Evolution*, edited by T. Wohlers and A. Fletcher, Emerald Publishing.

Week 5: Political ideology

Jost, J. T., C. M. Federico, et al. 2009. Political Ideology: Its Structure, Functions, and Elective Affinities. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 60, 307-337.

Duckitt, J., B. Bizumic, et al. 2010. A Tripartite Approach to Right-Wing Authoritarianism: The Authoritarianism-Conservatism-Traditionalism Model. *Political Psychology*, 31, 685-715.

Sidanius, J., & Pratto, F. 2004. Social dominance theory: A new synthesis. In J. T. Jost & J. Sidanius (Eds.), *Political psychology: Key readings* (pp. 315-332). New York: Psychology Press.

Feldman, S., & Johnston, C. 2014. Understanding the determinants of political ideology: Implications of structural complexity. *Political Psychology*, 35, 337-358.

Week 6: Affect and Emotions

Valentino, Nicholas A., Ted Brader, Eric W. Groenendyk, Krysha Gregorowicz, and Vincent L. Hutchings. 2011. "Election Night's Alright for Fighting: The Role of Emotions in Political Participation." *Journal of Politics* 73(1):156-70.

Iyengar, Shanto, Gaurav Sood, Yphtach Lelkes. 2012. "Affect, Not Ideology: A Social Identity Perspective on Polarization." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76(3): 405-431.

Clifford, Scott, and Jennifer Jerit. 2018. "Disgust, Anxiety, and Political Learning in the Face of Threat." *American Journal of Political Science* 62(2):266-279.

Redlawsk, D., & Mattes, K. 2022. Emotions and Politics. In D. Osborne & C. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology, pp. 139-158). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 7: Political Cognition

Devine, Patricia G. 1989. "Stereotypes and Prejudice: Their Automatic and Controlled Components." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 56(1):5-18.

Mondak, Jeffery J. 1994. "Cognitive Heuristics, Heuristic Processing, and Efficiency in Political Decision Making." In Robert Y. Shapiro, Michael X. Delli Carpini, and Leonie Huddy, eds., *Research in Micropolitics*, vol.4. Greenwich, Conn.: JAI Press.

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(4):951-71.

Dancey, Logan, and Geoffrey Sheagley. 2013. "Heuristics Behaving Badly: Party Cues and Voter Knowledge." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(2):312-25.

Week 8: Political Interest and Political Knowledge

Prior, Markus. 2010. "You've either got it or you don't? The stability of political interest over the life cycle." *The Journal of Politics* 72(3), 747-766.

Kuklinski, James H., Paul J. Quirk, Jennifer Jerit, David Schwieder, and Robert F. Rich. 2000. "Misinformation and the Currency of Democratic Citizenship." *Journal of Politics* 62:790-816.

Barabas, J., Jerit, J., Pollock, W., & Rainey, C. 2014. The question (s) of political knowledge. *American Political Science Review*, 108(4), 840-855.

Weitz-Shapiro, Rebecca, and Matthew S. Winters. 2022. "Knowledge of Social Rights as Political Knowledge." *Political Behavior*: 1-21.

Week 9: Issue Attitudes

Alvarez, R. Michael, and John Brehm. 1995. "American Ambivalence toward Abortion Policy: A Heteroskedastic Probit Method for Assessing Conflicting Values." *American Journal of Political Science* 39(4):1055-82.

Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber, and Gallya Lahav. 2005. "Threat, Anxiety, and Support of Antiterrorism Policies." *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3):593-608.

Valentino, N., & Kim, Y. 2022. The Political Dynamics of Immigration Opinion Worldwide. In D. Osborne & C. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology, pp. 329-345). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Geiger, N., Gruszczynski, M., & Swim, J. 2022. Political Psychology and the Climate Crisis. In D. Osborne & C. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology, pp. 546-564). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 10: Party Attachment

Gaines, Brian J., James H. Kuklinski, Paul J. Quirk, Buddy Peyton and Jay Verkuilen. 2007. "Same Facts, Different Interpretations: Partisan Motivation and Opinion on Iraq." *Journal of Politics* 69: 957-74.

Settle, Jaime E., Christopher T. Dawes, and James H. Fowler. 2009. "The heritability of partisan attachment." *Political Research Quarterly* 62(3): 601-613.

Huddy, L., Mason, L., & Aarøe, L. 2015. Expressive partisanship: Campaign involvement, political emotion, and partisan identity. *American Political Science Review*, 109(1), 1-17.

Geiger, N., Gruszczynski, M., & Swim, J. 2022. Political Psychology and the Climate Crisis. In D. Osborne & C. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology, pp. 546-564). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 11: Political Polarization

Mason, L. 2015. "I disrespectfully agree": The differential effects of partisan sorting on social and issue polarization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(1), 128-145.

Iyengar, S., & Westwood, S. J. 2015. Fear and loathing across party lines: New evidence on group polarization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3), 690-707.

Hill, S. J., & Tausanovitch, C. 2015. A disconnect in representation? Comparison of trends in congressional and public polarization. *The Journal of Politics*, 77(4), 1058- 1075.

Druckman, J.N., Klar, S., Krupnikov, Y. *et al.* 2021. Affective polarization, local contexts and public opinion in America. *Nat Hum Behav* 5, 28–38 .

Week 12: Political Trust

Rudolph, Thomas J., and Jillian Evans. 2005. "Political Trust, Ideology and Public Support for Government Spending." *American Journal of Political Science*. 49(3):660-71.

Mutz, Diana C., and Byron Reeves. 2005. "The New Videomalaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust." *American Political Science Review* 99(1):1-16.

Hetherington, Marc J. and Jason A. Husser. 2012. "How Trust Matters: The Changing Political Relevance of Political Trust." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(2):312-25.

Intawan, Chanita, and Stephen Nicholson. 2018. "My Trust in Government is Implicit: Automatic Trust in Government and System Support." *Journal of Politics* 80(2):601-614.

Week 13: Political Tolerance

Kuklinski, James H., Ellen Riggle, Victor Ottati, Norbert Schwarz, and Robert S. Wyer, Jr. 1991. "The Cognitive and Affective Bases of Political Tolerance Judgments." *American Journal of Political Science* 35:1-27.

Nelson, Thomas E., Clawson, Rosalee A., and Oxley, Zoe. 1997. "Media Framing of a Civil Liberties Controversy and its Effect on Tolerance." *American Political Science Review* 91: 567-84.

Mondak, Jeffery J., and Mitchell S. Sanders. 2003. "Tolerance and Intolerance, 1976- 1998." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 492-502.

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

Week 14: Political Participation: Voting

Kinder, Donald R., and D. Roderick Kiewiet. 1981. "Sociotropic Politics: The American Case." *British Journal of Political Science* 11: 129-61.

Ansola-behere, Stephen, Jonathan Rodden and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2008. "The Strength of Issues: Using Multiple Measures to Gauge Preference Stability, Ideological Constraint, and Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 102: 215-32.

Druckman, James N., James H. Kuklinski, and Lee Sigelman. 2009. "The Unmet Potential of Interdisciplinary Research: Political Psychological Approaches to Voting and Public Opinion." *Political Behavior* 31:485-510.

Coronel, J. C., Duff, M. C., Warren, D. E., Federmeier, K. D., Gonsalves, B. D., Tranel, D., & Cohen, N. J. 2012. Remembering and voting: theory and evidence from amnesic patients. *American journal of political science*, 56(4), 837-848.

Week 15: Political Participation: Non-electoral activities

Fialho, Fabrício M. 2022. "Race and non-electoral political participation in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 7(2): 262-293.

Bonilla, Tabitha, and Alvin B. Tillery. 2020. "Which identity frames boost support for and mobilization in the # BlackLivesMatter movement? An experimental test." *American Political Science Review* 114(4): 947-962.

Grossman, Guy, Macartan Humphreys, and Gabriella Sacramone-Lutz. 2014. "'I wld like u WMP to extend electricity 2 our village': On Information Technology and Interest Articulation." *American Political Science Review* 108 (3): 688-705.

Barton, Jared, Marco Castillo, and Ragan Petrie. 2016. "Negative campaigning, fundraising, and voter turnout: A field experiment." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 121: 99-113.

Week 16: Final Paper Presentations