

**Politics deals with relations among people; therefore it is inevitably linked with psychology which probes how humans think, feel, and behave in various settings. Political psychologists employ diverse theories and research tools to explain why political elites and mass publics think and act as they do and how these thoughts and actions shape the course of politics.**

**We will begin our study of Political Psychology with an overview that maps out the terrain that political psychology covers. To explore that terrain, we will concentrate on several major areas. These include the reasoning processes that come into play when human beings try to make sense of their political world and make decisions. We will study the many emotions that are an inseparable part of human reasoning. Reasoning and feeling are affected by differences in personalities and cultural environments. Therefore we will focus on the political impact of leaders' personality traits and on various cultural factors that influence people's behaviors. We will conclude by discussing the ugly consequences of prejudices and hatreds that lead to socially damaging behaviors and policies designed to diminish inter-group conflicts, acts of brutality and wars.**

**The books listed below are required reading for this course; please buy them.**

- 1. John T. Jost and Jim Sidanius, eds. Political Psychology: Key Readings, New York: Psychology Press, 2004.**
- 2. Neil J. Kressel. Mass Hate: The Global Rise of Genocide and Terror. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2002.**
- 3. George E. Marcus, W. Russell Neuman, and Michael MacKuen. Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.**
- 4. Stanley A. Renshon and John Duckitt, eds. Political Psychology: Cultural and Crosscultural Foundations. New York: New York University Press, 2000.**

**Required readings also include a few chapters from Kristen Renwick Monroe, ed. Political Psychology. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2002. Copies will be made available.**

#### **EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Examinations will be based on lectures and assigned readings. Since lecture topics differ from readings, regular class attendance is essential to pass the course. Three open-book examinations will test what you have learned in the course. They will take place on September 22nd, October 27th and December 1st and will count for 60 percent of your grade. Class attendance and participation will count for 10 percent of your grade.**

**Your report, which will be described in detail in class, counts for 30 percent**

of your grade. It should analyze a contemporary or historical situation from a political psychology perspective (e.g., terrorist organizations, political leader profiles, ethnic cleansing, symbolic politics, the affirmative action debates, the abortion conflicts etc.) A brief outline of your report that indicates how you will present it in class is due on October 25th. The report should be 3000 to 4000 words in length. It must be submitted no later than the start of class on November 1st. Try to submit your report before the deadline because **LATE REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** There are no exceptions to that rule.

#### **Tentative Time Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Readings are listed on a weekly basis. Please complete them by the listed due date so that you can contribute effectively to class discussions. Lectures will be based on the assumption that you are familiar with the information presented in the required readings.

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Topic and Assignment</b>
Aug. 25	1. Introduction to the field of political psychology; course prospectus Read: Jost pp. 1-32, 108-134
Aug. 30	2. Political learning, belief systems and cognitive styles Read: Jost 177-240
Sept. 6	3. Challenges for effective decisions-making Read: Jost 135-162; 241-270; 432-466
Sept. 13	4. Emotions and political judgment. Read: Marcus 1-64, 141--151; Jost 163-176
Sept. 20 culture	5. Emotions and political behavior: social capital, participation, civic Read: Marcus 65-140 Exam: September 22nd
Sept. 27	6. Measurement theories and methods in political psychology Read: Marcus 152-174; Jost 467- 476; Monroe 271-312
Oct. 4	7. Personality and politics; mass psychology and authoritarianism Read: Jost 33-107
Oct. 11 issues	8. The political relevance of culture and personality; cross-cultural Read: Renshon 3-86
Oct. 18	9. The dilemmas of multiculturalism; dealing with minorities Read: Renshon 89-107, 241-310
Oct. 25	10. Prejudice, diversity, and social dominance theories Read: Jost 271-377 & submit report outline Exam: October 27th
Nov. 1 events:	11. Submit Report. Psychological insights drawn from political presentation of selected reports.
Nov. 8	12. Psychological insights drawn from political events: presentation of selected reports. Read: Renshon 159-237

**Nov. 15**      **13. The consequences of hate: ethnic cleansing, religious extremism, revenge.**

**Read: Kressel ix-xxvii, 1-10, 144-212; Jost 379-431**

**Nov. 22**      **14. The psychology of holocausts and their perpetrators.**

**Read: Kressel 11-143**

**Nov. 29**      **15. Conclusions: How political psychology helps/hinders statecraft.**

**Read: Kressel 213-244; Renshon 108-155**

**Exam: December 1st**

**Instructor's Office: 1110 BSB (6**

**3108); dgraber@uic.edu. Office hours by appointment.**

**Make-ups for missed exams: Friday, Dec. 9th, 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**