

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

POLS 307 (20107)
Spring Semester, 2005

Dr. Graber

Politics deals with relations among people; therefore it is inevitably linked with psychology, which deals with human thinking and behavior. Political analysts throughout the ages and across civilizations have been interested in the reciprocal impact of personality characteristics and political environments. They have employed diverse theories to explain why rulers and subjects think and act as they do and how their thoughts and actions shape the course of politics.

This introductory Political Psychology course begins with an overview that maps out the terrain that political psychology covers. To explore that terrain, we will concentrate on several major areas in the sub-discipline. These include the reasoning processes that come into play when human beings try to make sense of their political world. They also include 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 also focus on the impact of these factors. We will conclude by discussing the fruits of prejudices and hatreds that lead to socially dysfunctional behaviors and on policies designed to diminish inter-group conflicts and violence.

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.
- You will also be required to read 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 materials 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 February 10th, March 17th and April 28th and will count for 60 percent of your grade. Class attendance and participation will count for 10 percent of your grade.

Your case 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.) The report, which should be 3000 to 4000 words in length, must be submitted no later than the start of class on March 29th, along with a brief outline indicating how you will present your report in class, if asked to do so. Without exception, LATE REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You may submit your report prior to the due date.

Tentative Time Schedule and Reading Assignments

Readings are listed on a weekly basis. Failure to complete them by the listed due date will impair the quality of your class participation. Class discussions will be based on the assumption that you are familiar with the required readings.

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
Jan. 13	1. Introduction to the field of political psychology; Course prospectus. <u>Read:</u> Jost pp. 1-32, 108-134
Jan. 18	2. Political learning, belief systems and cognitive styles <u>Read:</u> Jost 177-240
Jan. 25	3. Emotions and political judgment. <u>Read:</u> Marcus 1-64, 141--151; Jost 163-176
Feb. 1	4. The political relevance of culture and personality; cross-cultural issues <u>Read:</u> Renshon 3-86
Feb. 8	5. Personality and politics; mass psychology and authoritarianism <u>Read:</u> Jost 33-107 <u>Exam:</u> February 10th
Feb. 15	6. Measurement theories and methods in political psychology. <u>Read:</u> Marcus 152-174; Jost 467- 476; Monroe 271-312
Feb. 22	7. Emotions and political behavior: social capital, participation, civic culture. <u>Read:</u> Marcus 65-140
March 1	8. Challenges of Effective Decisions-Making <u>Read:</u> Jost 135-162; 241-270; 432-466
March 8	9. Prejudice, diversity, and social dominance theories <u>Read:</u> Jost 271-377
March 15	10. The dilemmas of multiculturalism; dealing with minorities <u>Read:</u> Renshon 89-107, 241-310 <u>Exam:</u> March 17th
March 29	11. Psychological insights drawn from political events: Presentation of selected case reports. <u>Submit discussion outline.</u>
April 5	12. Psychological insights drawn from political events: Presentation of selected case reports. <u>Read:</u> Renshon 159-237
April 12	13. The fruits of hate: Ethnic cleansing, religious extremism and revenge. <u>Read:</u> Kressel ix-xxvii, 1-10, 144-212; Jost 379-431
April 19	14. The psychology of holocausts and their perpetrators. <u>Read:</u> Kressel 11-143
April 26	15. Conclusions: How political psychology helps/hinders statecraft. <u>Read:</u> Kressel 213-244; Renshon 108-155 <u>Exam:</u> April 28th

Instructor's Office: 1110 BSB (6-3108); dgraber@uic.edu. Office hours by appointment.
Make-ups for missed classes: May 5th, 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.