

Political Science 3100: Political Psychology

University of North Texas, Spring 2007

Professor

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M W 9:30am-11am

Description

Political psychologists study political phenomena using theories and methods borrowed from psychology and political science. They examine many different questions from many different fields of political science, including most notably international relations and political behavior. The focus of this class, however, is on the latter. The emphasis is on the masses, that is, the people, and not on the elites or decision-makers. In this class, students will first be introduced to the subject of political psychology. We will discuss the kinds of questions political psychologists study. Students will then be introduced to the various methodologies political psychologists use in their analyses. Particular attention will be given, of course, to experimentation. Finally, we will take a close look at some of the political psychologists' contributions to the study of ideology and public opinion, the media, decision-making, and citizen competence.

The format of the class is as follows. For each class, students will have to read an article or a book chapter. Students should be advised that the reading load for this class is heavy. To ensure that students do the readings, pop-up quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions. Finally, a group (2 students per group) research project will be assigned and due at the end of the semester (see date below). Details about the research project will be given in class on January 19.

Required Texts

There is one required text for the class and a series of articles or book chapters that are posted on the class WebCT Vista webpage.

- 1 Sears, D. O., Huddy, L., and R. Jervis. 2003. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. Oxford University Press. (Referred hereafter as SHJ)

Assignments and Grading

There will be one midterm exam (worth 20% of the final grade), a final (worth 20%), and one research project (worth 25% of the final grade). Pop-up quizzes will be worth 25% and participation 10%. Questions on the exams will be drawn from the readings and the lectures. The final exam is not cumulative. The midterm and final exams consist of one essay question and five short-answer questions.

A make-up exam for the midterm will be offered only for **documented absences** and **family emergencies**. The make-up exam will be scheduled during dead week on **April 30**.

Class evaluations will take place on **May 4** when the research project will be due. **NOTE THAT NO RESEARCH PROJECT WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 4.**

Finally, note that extra credit will NOT be offered under any circumstances and that plagiarism and cheating will be pursued according to university policies.

Classroom Policies

Attendance is expected of all students but is not required (except for TAMS students). If a student misses a class, he or she is the sole responsible for any consequences. Cell phones and food are not permitted in class.

Course Schedule

1 Introducing Political Psychology

January 17: Presentation of syllabus.
January 19: Presentation of research project and SHJ Chapter 1.
January 22: WebCT Vista: Jost and Sidanius 2004.
January 24: WebCT Vista: McGuire 1993.
January 26: WebCT Vista: Simon 1985.
January 29: WebCT Vista: Sears 1987.
January 31: WebCT Vista: Sullivan et al. 2002.

2 Methodology

February 2: Time allocated for group projects (**Class does not meet**).
February 5: WebCT Vista: Jordan and Zanna 2004.
February 7: WebCT Vista: Kinder and Palfrey 1993.
February 9: WebCT Vista: McDermott 2002.
February 12: WebCT Vista: Druckman et al. 2006.
February 14: WebCT Vista: Tetlock 1994.

3 Ideology and Public Opinion

February 16: SHJ Chapter 3.
February 19: SHJ Chapter 13.
February 21: SHJ Chapter 14.
February 23: WebCT Vista: Converse 1964.
February 26: WebCT Vista: Conover and Feldman 1981.
February 28: WebCT Vista: Zaller and Feldman 1992.

****March 2: Midterm covering all material from sections 1, 2, and 3.**

4 The Media

March 5: SHJ Chapter 11.
March 7: WebCT Vista: Iyengar et al. 1982.
March 9: WebCT Vista: Krosnick and Kinder 1990.
March 12: WebCT Vista: Marcus and MacKuen 1993.
March 14: WebCT Vista: Ansolabehere et al. 1994.

5 Decision-Making

March 16: SHJ Chapter 2.

March 26: WebCT Vista: Quattrone and Tversky 1988.

March 28: WebCT Vista: Jervis 1993.

April 30: WebCT Vista: Popkin 1993.

April 2: WebCT Vista: Kinder 1993.

****April 6: NO CLASS (Easter).**

6 Citizen Competence

April 4: SHJ Chapter 18.

April 9: WebCT Vista: Bartels 1996.

April 11: WebCT Vista: Althaus 1998.

April 13: Guess lecture.

April 16: WebCT Vista: Luskin et al. 2002.

April 18: WebCT Vista: Gilens 2001.

April 20: WebCT Vista: Lupia 1994.

April 23: WebCT Vista: Kuklinski et al. 2001

April 25: WebCT Vista: Kuklinski and Quirk 2001.

April 27: WebCT Vista: Jerit et al. 2006.

****April 30: Make-up Exam day.**

****May 4: Class evaluations and research projects are due.**

****May 11: Final Exam, in class at 10:30am.**