

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 Alford, & William Anderson, The Biology of Political Behavior, Sage: Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol. 614, #1, Nov. 2007.
2. Daniel Chirot, & Clark McCauley, Why Not Kill Them All? Princeton University Press, 2006.
3. John T. Jost and Jim Sidanius, eds. Political Psychology: Key Readings, New York: Psychology Press, 2004.
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 February 14th, March 20th and May 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, political attitude formation, the abortion conflicts etc.) A brief outline of your report that indicates how you will present it in class is due on March 18th. The report should be 3000 to 4000 words in length. It must be submitted no later than the start of class on April 1st. Plan on submitting 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.

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
Jan. 15	1. Introduction to the field of political psychology; course prospectus Read: Jost pp. 1-32, 108-134, Alford 6-14
Jan, 22	2. Political learning, cognitive styles, attitudes, and belief systems Read: Jost 177-240; Alford 196-212
Jan. 29	3. The etiology of decision-making Read: Jost 135-162; 241-270; 432-466
Feb. 5	4. Feelings and political judgment: affective intelligence, ambition, bigotry Read: Jost 163-176; Alford 56-101, 172-195
Feb, 12	5. Feelings and political behavior: aggression, fear, empathy Read: Alford 15-33, 131-171 Exam: Feb. 14th
Feb. 19	6. Measurement theories and methods in political psychology Read: Monroe 271-312; Jost 467- 476; Alford 34-55
Feb. 26	7. Personality and politics; mass psychology and authoritarianism Read: Jost 33-107
Mar 4	8. The political relevance of culture and personality; cross-cultural issues Read: Renshon 3-86
Mar 11	9. The dilemmas of multiculturalism; dealing with minorities, racism Read: Renshon 89-107, 241-310, Jost 333-378
Mar 18	10. Prejudice, diversity, and social dominance theories Read: Jost 271-332, Alford 102-130 & submit report outline Exam: March 20th
Apr 1	11. Submit Report. Psychological insights drawn from political events: presentation of selected reports
Apr 8	12. Psychological insights drawn from political events: presentation of selected reports Read: Renshon 159-237
Apr 15	13. Modern genocides and ethnic cleansings Read: Chirot 1-50, 95-148
Apr 22	14. The psychological foundations of holocausts and terrorism Read: Jost 379-431; Chirot 51-94
Apr 29	15. Strategies for conflict resolution: Successes and failures Read: Chirot 149-218; Renshon 108-155 Exam: May 1st

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Make-ups for missed exams will be given at the time set aside for the final examination.