

## **Political Psychology**

Political Science 100M

Peterson 104

Darren Schreiber  
Winter 2008  
Social Science Building 367  
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Class Meets: Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### **My Mission as a Teacher:**

“To enable my students to learn joyfully, think clearly, read carefully, and write well.”

### **Abstract**

Beliefs about how people think about politics have been at the core of theories of politics since the ancients. In this course, we will begin with a survey of important theories of political psychology from the past century. We will focus mainly on hypotheses about how people develop their political attitudes and on the methods used to test those hypotheses. Twentieth century researchers were constrained to observing behavior and relied on surveys, interviews, and simple experiments to make inferences about the political mind. The second half of the course will look at the future of political psychology. We will learn about cutting edge insights from fields like neuroscience, genetics, computational modeling, and evolutionary theory. And, we will ask how those insights should inform our understanding of political cognition, affect, and behavior.

### **Books**

Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment (2000) (\$15.00)

George E. Marcus, W. Russell Neuman, Michael Mackuen

A General Theory of Love (2000) (\$13.00)

Thomas Lewis, Fari Amini, Richard Lannon

The Nature and Origin of Mass Opinion (1992) (\$24.99)

John Zaller

Course Reader Available at:

University Readers

[www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com)

(800) 200-3908

## Topics & Readings

Meeting 1 (Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>) – Psychoanalytic Approaches

Vamik D. Volkan. “Bosnia-Herzegovina: Ancient Fuel of a Modern Inferno.” *Mind and Human Interaction* (1996) 7, p. 110-127 (17 pages)

Meeting 2 (Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>) – Rational Choice Theory

Anthony Downs (1957) *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 1 & 3 (31 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 1 (15 pages)

Meeting 3 (Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>) – Philip Converse’s and His Legacy

Philip E. Converse. “The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics.” (1964) (55 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 2 (18 pages)

Meeting 4 (Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>) – Philip Converse’s and His Legacy (continued)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 3 (31 pages)

Meeting 5 (Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>) – Schema Theory

Robert Axelrod (1973) “Schema Theory: An Information Processing Model of Perception and Cognition” (19 pages)

“Where is the Schema? Going Beyond the “S” Word in Political Psychology.” James H. Kuklinski; Robert C. Luskin; John Bolland. (1991) (16 pages).

Meeting 6 (Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>) – Racial Attitudes

### **First Paper Due**

James Sidanius (1993) “The Psychology of Group Conflict and the Dynamics of Oppression: A Social Dominance Approach.” In S. Iyengar & W. J. McGuire (Eds.), Explorations in Political Psychology pp. 183-219. Durham: Duke University Press. (37 pages)

Meeting 7 (Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>) – The Online Model

“An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation.” Milton Lodge; Kathleen M.

McGraw; Patrick Stroh. *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 83, No. 2. (Jun., 1989), pp. 399-419 (21 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 4 (34 pages)

Meeting 8 (Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>) – Zaller’s Theory

John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 1-3 (53 pages)

Lewis et al. “A General Theory of Love.” Chapter 5 (21 pages)

Meeting 9 (Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>) – Zaller’s Theory (continued)

John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 4-5 (44 pages)

Meeting 10 (Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>) – Zaller’s Theory (continued)

John Zaller. “The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.” Chapters 6-7 (54 pages)

Meeting 11 (Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>) – **Midterm**

## Topics & Readings (continued)

- Meeting 12 (Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>) – Affective Intelligence  
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 1-3) (45 pages)
- Meeting 13 (Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>) – Affective Intelligence (cont.)  
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 4-5) (40 pages)
- Meeting 14 (Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>) – Affective Intelligence (cont.)  
Affective Intelligence And Political Judgment (Chapters 6-7) (46 pages)
- Meeting 15 (Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>) – Neuropolitics  
Spezio & Adolphs “Emotional Processing and Political Judgment: Toward Integrating Political Psychology and Decision Neuroscience.” (2006) (51 pages)
- Meeting 16 (Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>) – Neuropolitics  
Schreiber & Iacoboni (2004) Evaluating Political Questions: Evidence from Functional Brain Imaging (42 pages)
- Meeting 17 (Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>) – Evolution of Machiavellian Intelligence  
Orbell et al. (2004) “‘Machiavellian’ Intelligence as a Basis for the Evolution of Cooperative Dispositions.” American Political Science Review (15 pages)
- Meeting 18 (Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>) – Genes and Attitudes  
Alford et al “Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?” American Political Science Review (2005) (15 pages)
- Meeting 19 (Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>) – Race Perception  
Phelps et al. “Performance on Indirect Measures of Race Evaluation Predicts Amygdala Activation.” Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience (2000) (10 pages)  
Golby et al. “Differential Responses in the Fusiform Region to Same-Race and Other-Race Faces.” Nature Neuroscience (2001) (6 pages)  
Lieberman et al. “An fMRI investigation of race-related amygdala activity in African-American and Caucasian-American individuals.” Nature Neuroscience (2005) (3 pages)
- Meeting 20 (Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>) – Physiological measures  
**Second Paper Due**  
Mutz & Reeves “The New Video Malaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust” American Political Science Review (2005) (15 pages)
- Final Exam** (Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>) – 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

### **Assignments & Grading**

40% -- Two Papers (5 pages and 10 pages)

25% -- Midterm Exam

25% -- Final Exam

10% -- Five Quizzes (you can drop one)

- D Regurgitation – Like an infant, you are good at spitting it back out.
- C Basic – Applying the facts and skills "as is."
- B Intermediate – Applying the facts and skills to new problems or situations.
- A Advanced – Asking counter-factual questions, modifying operative principles to illustrate command of the core concepts in challenging contexts.

### **Grade Changes and Extensions**

All requests for grade changes must be made formally to your teaching assistant. Requests must be typed, double spaced, and include precise textual citations that support your contention. A review of any grade may result in either a higher or a lower grade. Extensions on assignments and make-up exams will only be granted in cases of documented illness or family medical emergencies. Please contact your teaching assistant as soon as possible if you need to request one.

### **Late Policy**

Papers are due at the **beginning** of class. 2% bonus if an assignment is turned in more than 25 hours early. A 5% penalty applies for any papers turned in after the beginning of class, with a 5% additional penalty for each day an assignment is turned in late. No papers will be accepted electronically. A paper is not submitted until I have a physical copy of it.

### **Plagiarism**

Fidelity to ones' own ideas and the ideas of others dictates that proper citation be made for any work or idea of another. If I believe that you have violated this principle, I will change from being your advocate to being your prosecutor and I will seek the strongest penalty consistent with university policy.