

POL 608 — Foundations, Political Psychology

Fall, 2006

Chuck Taber

Class Location: SBS N702

Class Time: Wednesday, 10:00 - 1:00

Office Hours: Open Door (TTh 10:00-11:00)

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Course Description: POL 608 provides a broad introduction to the field of political psychology, including historical and contemporary perspectives. It serves as the foundation for our graduate political psychology program. We will survey most of the major areas of political psychology, though we will favor more recent and more empirical work.

Assignments and Grading: Final grades will be based on two criteria: 40% of your grade will come from class participation and quality of preparation; 60% will come from written papers.

- (1) POL 608 is designed to provide a solid foundation for further study and research in political psychology. As such, it must expose you broadly to the existing body of theory and research in the field. You are expected to read assignments with care. You are expected to contribute intelligently to class discussions each week. Halfway through the semester, I will schedule individual meetings to discuss your progress.
- (2) There will be four papers, each 6-8 pages in length, on topics of your choice related to the readings for the current section of the course. For example, paper 1 (due on 10/4) should cover issues raised in the readings/lectures of 9/6-9/27.

These papers may take a variety of approaches:

- (a) A discussion and attempted resolution of what you see as conflicting ideas and/or findings in the given literature.
- (b) A critical reaction (positive or negative) to some theoretical proposition or program of research (but not simply a summary).
- (c) A synthesis of perspectives that have been presented as competing or unrelated.
- (d) A brief research proposal designed to test or extend a theoretical claim you have encountered in the readings/lecture.
- (e) A paper relating some ideas from this course to other ideas you have run across in other coursework.
- (f) Some other idiosyncratic approach that you must clear with me in advance.

Required Readings:

Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis, eds., 2003. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

A readings packet, available from the political science office.

Disabilities: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, 128 ECC Building (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following web site: <http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu> and search Fire safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

Topics and Readings

Section 1: Putting the Field into Perspective: Introductions and Historical Overviews

9/6 Course Introduction and Historical Overview

9/13 Perspectives on Political Psychology
Handbook, Chapter 1.

Sullivan, John L., Wendy M. Rahn, and Thomas J. Rudolph. 2002. The contours of political psychology: Situating research on political information processing. In James H. Kuklinski, ed., *Thinking About Political Psychology*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Simon, Herbert. 1985. Human nature in politics: The dialogue of psychology and political science. *American Political Science Review* 79: 293-304.

Section 2: Personality

9/20 Overviews

Handbook, Chapter 4

Greenstein, Fred. 1969. *Personality and Politics*, Chapters 1-3. Chicago: Markham.

Crosby, Faye, and Travis L. Crosby. 1981. Psychobiography and psychohistory. In Samuel L. Long, ed., *Handbook of Political Behavior*, Vol 1. New York: Plenum, 195-254.

Psychodynamic Theory

George, Alexander L., and Juliette L. George. 1964. *Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House: A Personality Study*, Preface and Research Note. New York: Dover, v-xiv, 317-322.

Barber, James David. 1985. The presidential character. Reprinted in Neil Kressel, ed., *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. NY: Paragon, 1993.

9/27 Trait Psychology

Winter, David G. 1987. Leader appeal, leader performance, and the motive profiles of leaders and followers: A study of American presidents and elections. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 52: 196-202.

Nisbett, Richard E. 1980. The trait construct in lay and professional psychology. In Leon Festinger, ed., *Retrospections on Social Psychology*. NY: Oxford University Press, 109-130.

The Authoritarian Personality

Brown, Roger. 1965. The authoritarian personality and the organization of attitudes. In *Social Psychology*. NY: The Free Press, 477-546.

Altemeyer, Bob. 1988. Chapters 1-3. *Enemies of Freedom: Understanding Right-Wing Authoritarianism*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Feldman, Stanley. 2003. Enforcing social conformity: A theory of authoritarianism. *Political Psychology* 24: 41-74.

Paper 1, due in class on 10/4, covers material through 9/27

Section 3: Social Influence

10/4 Socialization

Handbook, Chapter 3.

Easton, David, and Jack Dennis. 1969. *Children in the Political System: Origins of Political Legitimacy*, Chapters 1-2, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Niemi, Richard G., and M. Kent Jennings. 1991. Issues and inheritance in the formation of party identification. *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 970-988.

Sears, David O., and Nicholas A. Valentino. 1997. Politics matters: Political events as catalysts for preadult socialization. *American Political Science Review* 91: 45-65.

10/11 Conformity, Obedience, and Groupthink

Brown, Roger. 1986. Social forces in obedience and rebellion. From *Social Psychology*. NY: The Free Press, 1-42.

Kelman, Herbert C., and V. Lee Hamilton. 1989. *Crimes of Obedience: Toward a Social Psychology of Authority and Responsibility*, Chapter 1. New Haven: Yale.

't Hart, Paul. 1990. *Groupthink in Government: A Study of Small Groups and Policy Failure*, Chapters 1-2.

Section 4: Belief Systems, Attitudes, and Attitude Change

10/18 Belief Systems and Public Opinion

Handbook, Chapter 13.

Converse, Philip E. 1964. The nature of belief systems in mass publics. In David E. Apter, ed., *Ideology and Discontent*. NY: The Free Press.

Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. A simple theory of the survey response: Answering questions versus revealing preferences. *American Journal of Political Science* 36: 579-616.

Hurwitz, Jon, and Mark Peffley. 1987. How are foreign policy attitudes structured? A hierarchical model. *American Political Science Review* 81: 1099-1110.

10/25 Attitude Structure and Change

Petty, Richard E., and Duane T. Wegener. 1998. Attitude change: Multiple roles for persuasion research. In Daniel T. Gilbert, Susan T. Fiske, and Gardner Lindzey, eds., *The Handbook of Social Psychology* (4th edition). Boston: McGraw-Hill, 323-390.

Mass Media

Handbook, Chapter 11.

Iyengar, Shanto, Mark D. Peters, and Donald R. Kinder. 1982. Experimental consequences of the "not-so-minimal" consequences of television news programs. *American Political Science Review* 76: 848-858.

Nelson, Thomas E., Rosalee A. Clawson, and Zoe M. Oxley. 1997. Media framing of a civil liberties conflict and its effect on tolerance. *American Political Science Review* 91: 567-83.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Shanto Iyengar, Adam Simon, and Nicholas Valentino. 1994. Does attack advertising demobilize the electorate? *American Political Science Review* 88: 829-838.

Paper 2, due in class on 11/1, covers material from 10/4-25

Section 5: Values and Self-Interest

11/1 Self-Interest and Altruism

Monroe, Kristin R. 1994. A fat lady in a corset: Altruism and social theory. *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 861-893.

Sears, David O., and Carolyn Funk. 1991. The role of self-interest in social and political attitudes. In Mark P. Zanna, ed., *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol 24). Academic Press, 1-91.

Values

Handbook, Chapter 14.

Sullivan, John, James Piereson, and George Marcus. 1982. Chapters 1 and 2 from *Political Tolerance and American Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Inglehart, Ronald, and Paul Abramson. 1994. Economic security and value change. *American Political Science Review* 88: 336-354.

Section 6: Political Cognition

11/8 Overviews

Handbook, Chapter 12.

Lodge, Milton, Marco Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. The responsive voter: Campaign information and the dynamics of candidate evaluation. *American Political Science Review* 89: 309-326.

Kim, Sung-young, Charles S. Taber, and Milton Lodge. A model of political preferences: The dynamics of candidate evaluation in the 2000 presidential election. Under review.

McGraw, Kathleen M. 1991. Managing blame: An experimental test of the effects of political accounts. *American Political Science Review* 85: 1133-57.

Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. Motivated skepticism in the evaluation of political beliefs. *American Journal of Political Science* 50: 755-69.

11/15 Biases and Heuristics

Handbook, Chapters 2, 8, and 9.

Quattrone, George, and Amos Tversky. 1988. Contrasting rational and psychological analyses of political choice. *American Political Science Review* 82: 719-36.

Farnham, Barbara. 1992. Roosevelt and the Munich Crisis: Insights from prospect theory. *Political Psychology* 13: 205-35.

McDermott, Rose. 2004. Prospect theory in political science: Gains and losses from the first decade. *Political Psychology* 25: 289-312.

Paper 3, due in class on 11/22, covers material from 11/1-11/15

Section 7: Affect and Emotion

11/22 Affect and Emotion

Handbook, Chapter 6.

Sears, David O. 2001. The role of affect in symbolic politics. In James H. Kuklinski, ed., *Citizens and Politics: Perspectives from Political Psychology*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Marcus, George E., and Michael B. MacKuen. 1993. Anxiety, enthusiasm, and the vote: The emotional underpinnings of learning and involvement during presidential campaigns. *American Political Science Review* 87: 672-685.

Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber, and Gallya Lahav. 2005. Threat, anxiety, and support of anti-terrorism policies. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Small, Deborah A., Jennifer S. Lerner, and Baruch Fischhoff. 2006. Emotion priming and attributions for terrorism: Americans' reactions in a national field experiment. *Political Psychology* 27: 289-98.

Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2005. Implicit affect for political candidates, parties, and issues: An experimental test of the hot cognition hypothesis. *Political Psychology*.

11/29 Intergroup Conflict

Brown, Roger. 1986. Ethnic conflict. In *Social Psychology*. NY: The Free Press.
Handbook, Chapter 15.

Sidanius, Jim, Felicia Pratto, Colette van Laar, and Shana Levin. 2004. Social dominance theory: Its agenda and method. *Political Psychology* 25: 845-80.

Kinder, Donald R., and David O. Sears. 1981. Prejudice and politics: Symbolic racism versus racial threats to the good life. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 40: 414-431.

Feldman, Stanley, and Leonie Huddy. 2005. Racial resentment and white opposition to race-conscious programs: Principles or prejudice? *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 168-83.

12/6 Stereotypes and Prejudice

Handbook, Chapters 16 and 17.

Devine, Patricia G. 1989. Stereotypes and prejudice: Their automatic and controlled components. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 56: 5-18.

Bargh, John A. 1999. The cognitive monster: The case against the controllability of automatic stereotyping effects. In Shelly Chaiken and Trope, eds., *Dual Process Theories in Social Psychology*. New York: Guilford, 361-382.

Huddy, Leonie, and Nayda Terkildsen. 1993. Gender stereotypes and the perception of male and female candidates. *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 119-147.

Paper 4, due on 12/13, covers material from 11/22-12/6

Section 8: Odds and Ends

12/13 New Directions in Political Psychology

Handbook, Chapter 5.

Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk., and John R. Hibbing. 2005. Are political orientations genetically transmitted? *American Political Science Review* 99: 153-67.

Cosmides, Leda, and John Tooby. 1997. Evolutionary psychology: A primer. Center for Evolutionary Psychology, UCSB, <http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/research/cep/primer.html>.

Ochsner, Kevin N., and Matthew D. Lieberman. 2001. The emergence of social cognitive neuroscience. *American Psychologist* 56: 717-34.

Taber, Charles S. 2005. NSF Grant Proposal on Implicit Racism.