

POL 412 – Topics in American Politics (The Psychology of Politics)
Spring 2016
Tuesday, 6:00-8:50 PM
Schroeder 126

Instructor: Dr. Carl L. Palmer
Office: 433 Schroeder Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:30, or by appointment
Email: clpalme [at] ilstu [dot] edu

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to be an overview of the topics in the field of political psychology. We will focus on psychological factors that influence the ways which citizens approach the political world, receive and process information from peers and political elites, form and express attitudes and opinions, and evaluate political candidates. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the theoretical approaches and methodologies used to apply psychological constructs to political life. By the end of the course, students should be able to critically evaluate theoretical arguments applying psychological principles to political behavior, articulate arguments about these issues both orally and in writing, identify normative concerns regarding citizen behavior based upon the arguments we have read, and be capable of synthesizing research literature on a given topic in order to identify lacunae in the literature and conduct a research study to bridge those gaps.

Due to the seminar nature of this course, it is essential that students take a consistently active role in class discussions. I expect students to come to class every day having completed assigned readings in advance, and prepared to contribute your opinions, observations, questions and efforts to relate readings to concepts and tools you are learning in your other classes, and/or current events. In general, we will approach assigned readings with the following questions in mind:

1. How does it contribute to our understanding of politics?
2. What are the main arguments of the piece? The substantive findings?
3. How does the author's argument speak to the other readings?
4. What are the limitations of the research? Are there current trends that might call for modifying the research and/or its findings?
5. What would be the next steps in building upon or improving this research?

Required Readings:

- Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Additional readings will be made available via ReggieNet (or can be downloaded from www.jstor.org).

Course Policies:

1. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the university's policies regarding plagiarism and cheating online at the Dean of Students Office website.
2. Assignments submitted electronically *will not be accepted*. All assignments must be submitted *at the beginning of class* on the due date in the syllabus; late assignments will lose 10% credit per day late. All assignments *must* be typed unless otherwise instructed.
3. To be considered for a regrade assignments or exams must be accompanied by a no greater than 1 page (single spaced) memo detailing your claim. Memos must provide justification for a change of grade using examples from course material, and will only be accepted after a 24-hour *cooling-off* period. Memos must be submitted within one week of the initial return date for the assignment or exam.
4. Usage of cell phones in class will not be permitted. Please silence all cell phones before coming to class.
5. If you have special needs that require accommodation, please let me know early on so that the appropriate measures can be taken. You will be required to provide documentation of your requirements.

Course Requirements:

Participation (20%):

You will be expected to attend all classes in their entirety, and participate actively, in a thoughtful manner, in the discussion of the readings for that day. Exceptions may be made for illness and other emergencies with proper documentation.

Reaction Papers (25%):

You will be required to submit a total of eight reaction papers over the course of the semester, which will consist of one-page single-spaced page (12-point font with 1in margins) reacting to the week's readings. Papers must be submitted electronically to the instructor via email by 9AM on Tuesdays prior to class, in Word or PDF format. Late papers will not be accepted without proper documentation.

These reactions should address the readings, commenting on and/or juxtaposing the theoretical or methodological approaches in the readings for a given day, raising critiques of the theoretical framework or research design, or suggesting new questions or hypotheses for the topic being considered. These should **not** be summaries of the readings. You will be expected to complete *one* response paper per week, and must be on the topic of readings *for a given class* not material we have already discussed.

Final Paper (45%):

There will be a required 20-25 page (double-spaced) quantitative research paper. It will be comprised of an initial literature review (due 10/8, 5% of final grade), a research design (due 11/12, 5% of final grade), and data analysis (due , 5% of final grade), and a revised final paper due on the day of the final (TBD). The paper topic will be of your own choosing, but must somehow relate to political psychology. For the paper, you will need to identify either an

existing source of data or collect your own, and conduct the appropriate statistical analyses to evaluate the paper's hypotheses.

Class Presentation and Discussion (10%):

The final class meeting you will present your research paper and provide comments for one of your colleagues' work. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your presentation, and the thoughtful comments you provide for the paper you discuss.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Jan. 12 – Introduction and syllabus

Week 2:

Jan. 19 – Methods in Political Psychology

- Asher, Herbert B. 1974. "Some Consequences of Measurement Error in Survey Data." *American Journal of Political Science* 18(2): 469-485.
- Baron, Reuben M., and David A. Kenny. 1986. "The Moderator-Mediator Variable Distinction in Social Psychological Research: Conceptual, Strategic, and Statistical Considerations." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 51(6): 1173-82.
- Druckman, James N., and Cindy D. Kam. 2011. "Students as Experimental Participants: A Defense of the "Narrow Data Base"." In James N. Druckman, Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia, eds. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McDermott, Rose. 2011. "Internal and External Validity." In James N. Druckman, Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia, eds. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pérez, Efrén O. 2011. "The Origins and Implications of Language Effects in Multilingual Surveys: A MIMIC Approach with Application to Latino Political Attitudes." *Political Analysis* 19(4): 434-54.

Week 3

Jan. 26 –Political Cognition

- Collins, Allan M., and Elizabeth F. Loftus. 1975. "A Spreading-Activation Theory of Semantic Processing." *Psychological Review* 82(6): 407-28.
- Lodge, Milton, Marco Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2): 309-26.
- Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge University Press

Week 4

Feb. 2 – Dual Process Models

- Arceneaux, Kevin. 2008. "Can Partisan Cues Diminish Democratic Accountability?" *Political Behavior* 30(2): 139-60.

- Cobb, Michael D., and James H. Kuklinski. 1997. "Changing Minds: Political Arguments and Political Persuasion." *American Journal of Political Science* 41(1): 88-121.
- Haugtvedt, Curtis P., and Richard E. Petty. 1992. "Personality and Persuasion: Need for Cognition Moderates the Persistence and Resistance of Attitude Change." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 63(2): 308-19.
- Kam, Cindy D. 2005. "Who Toes the Party Line? Cues, Values, and Individual Differences." *Political Behavior* 27(1): 163-82.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. 2011. "Dominating Cues and the Limits of Elite Influence." *Journal of Politics* 73(4): 1165-77.

Week 5

Feb. 9 – Persuasion

- Chong, Dennis, and James N. Druckman. 2010. "Dynamic Public Opinion: Communication Effects Over Time." *American Political Science Review* 104(4): 663-80.
- Druckman, James N. 2001. "The Implication of Framing Effects for Citizen Competence." *Political Behavior* 23(3): 225-56.
- Druckman, James N., Cari Lynn Hennessy, Kristi St. Charles, and Jonathan Webber. 2010. "Competing Rhetoric Over Time: Frames versus Cues." *Journal of Politics* 72(1): 136-48.
- Kam, Cindy D., and Elizabeth N. Simas. 2010. "Risk Orientations and Policy Frames." *The Journal of Politics* 72(2): 381-96.
- Valentino, Nicholas A., Vincent L. Hutchings, and Ismail White. 2002. "Cues that Matter: How Political Ads Prime Racial Attitudes During Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 75-90.

Week 6 – Literature Review Due

Feb. 16 – Attitude Strength, Ambivalence, and Political Knowledge

- Krosnick, Jon A. 1989. "The Role of Attitude Importance in Social Evaluation: A Study of Policy Preferences, Presidential Candidate Evaluations, and Voting Behavior." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 55(2): 196-210.
- Krosnick, Jon A. 1989. "Attitude Importance and Attitude Accessibility." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 15(3): 297-308.
- Lavine, Howard. 2001. "The Electoral Consequences of Ambivalence Toward Presidential Candidates." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(4): 915-29.
- Luskin, Robert C., and John G. Bullock. 2011. "'Don't Know' Means 'Don't Know': DK Responses and the Public's Level of Political Knowledge." *Journal of Politics* 73(2): 547-57.
- Mondak, Jeffrey. 2001. "Developing Valid Knowledge Scales." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(1): 224-238.

Week 7

Feb. 23 – Affect

- Banks, Antoine J., and Nicholas A. Valentino. 2012. "Emotional Substrates of White Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(2): 286-97.

- Brader, Ted. 2005. “Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions.” *American Journal of Political Science* 49(2): 388-405.
- Brader, Ted, Nicholas A. Valentino, and Elizabeth Suhay. 2008. “What Triggers Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and the Immigration Threat.” *American Journal of Political Science* 52(4): 959-78.
- Groenendyk, Eric W., and Antoine J. Banks. 2013. “Emotional Rescue: How Affect Helps Partisans Overcome Collective Action Problems.” *Political Psychology* 35(3): 359-78.
- Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber, and Gallya Lahav. 2005. “Threat, Anxiety, and Support for Antiterrorism Policies.” *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 593-608.

Week 8

Mar. 1 – Implicit Attitudes

- Fazio, Russell H., Joni R. Jackson, Bridget C. Dunton, and Carol Williams. 1995. “Variability in Automatic Activation as an Unobstrusive Measure of Racial Attitudes: A Bona Fide Pipeline?” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 69(6): 1013-27.
- Greenwald, Anthony G., Debbie E. McGhee, and Jordan L.K. Schwartz. 1998. “Measuring Individual Differences in Implicit Social Cognition: The Implicit Association Test.” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 74(6): 1464-80.
- Kam, Cindy D. 2007. “Implicit Attitudes, Explicit Choices: When Subliminal Priming Predicts Candidate Preference.” *Political Behavior* 29(3): 343-67.
- Kam, Cindy D., and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2013. “Name Recognition and Candidate Support.” *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 971-86.
- Pérez, Efrén O. 2010. “Explicit Evidence on the Import of Implicit Attitudes: The IAT and Immigration Policy Judgments.” *Political Behavior* 32(4): 517-45.

Week 9: Spring Break

Mar. 8 – no class

Week 10

Mar. 15 – Motivated Reasoning

- Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 11 – Research Proposal Due

Mar. 22 – Social Identity Theory

- Brewer, Marilynn B. 1991. “The Social Self: On Being the Same and Different at the Same Time.” *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 17(5): 475-82.
- Ellemers, N., Spears, R., and Doosje, B. 1997. “Sticking Together or Falling Apart: In-Group Identification as a Psychological Determinant of Group Commitment Versus Individual Mobility.” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 72(3): 617-26.
- Pérez, Efrén O. 2015. “Ricochet: How Elite Discourse Politicizes Racial and Ethnic Identities.” *Political Behavior* 37(1): 155-80.
- Shayo, Moses. 2009. “A Model of Social Identity With An Application to Political

Economy: Nation, Class, and Redistribution.” *American Political Science Review* 103(2): 147-74.

- Tajfel, Henri, Michael G. Billig, R.P. Bundy, and Claude Flamente. 1971. “Social Categorization and Intergroup Behaviour.” *European Journal of Social Psychology* 1(2): 149-78.

Week 12

Mar. 29 – Affect, Emotions, and Hot Cognition

- Civettini, Andrew J. W., and David P. Redlawsk. 2009. “Voters, Emotions, and Memory.” *Political Psychology* 30(1): 125-51.
- Ladd, Jonathan McDonald, and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2008. “Reassessing the Role of Anxiety in Vote Choice.” *Political Psychology* 29(2): 275-96.
- 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(3): 672-85.
- Valentino, Nicholas A., Ted Brader, Eric W. Groenendyk, Krysha Gregorowicz, and Vincent L. Hutchings. 2011. “Election Night’s Alright for Fighting: The Role of Emotions in Political Participation.” *Journal of Politics* 73(1): 156-70.

Week 13

Apr. 5 – Bio-Politics

- Charney, Evan, and William English. 2012. “Candidate Genes and Political Behavior.” *American Political Science Review* 106(1): 1-34.
- Dawes, Christopher T., and James H. Fowler. 2009. “Partisanship, Voting, and the Dopamine D2 Receptor Gene.” *Journal of Politics* 71(3): 1157-71.
- Fowler, James H., and Christopher T. Dawes. 2008. “Two Genes Predict Voter Turnout.” *Journal of Politics* 70(3): 579-94.
- Hatemi, Peter K., John R. Alford, John R. Hibbing, Nicholas G. Martin, and Lindon J. Eaves. 2009. “Is There a Party in Your Genes?” *Political Research Quarterly* 62(3): 584-600.
- Settle, Jaime E., Christopher T. Dawes, Nicholas A. Christakis, and James H. Fowler. 2010. “Friendships Moderate an Association between a Dopamine Gene Variant and Political Ideology.” *Journal of Politics* 72(4): 1189-98.

Week 14

Apr. 12 – Personality and Politics

- Akrami, Nazar, and Bo Ekehammar. 2006. “Right-Wing Authoritarianism and Social Dominance Orientation: Their Roots in Big-Five Personality Factors and Facets.” *Journal of Individual Differences* 27(3): 117-26.
- Feldman, Stanley. 2003. Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism. *Political Psychology* 24(1): 41-74.
- Kam, Cindy D. and Donald R. Kinder. 2007. “Terror and Ethnocentrism: Foundations of American Support for the War on Terrorism.” *Journal of Politics* 69(2): 318-36.
- Mondak, Jeffery J., Matthew V. Hibbing, Damarys Canache, Mitchell A. Seligson, and Mary R. Anderson. 2010. “Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior.” *American Political*

Science Review 104(1): 1-26.

- Pratto, Felicia, Jim Sidanius, Lisa M. Stallworth, and Bertram F. Malle. 1994. "Social Dominance Orientation: A Personality Variable Predicting Social and Political Attitudes." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 67(4): 741-63.

Week 15 – Data Analysis due

Apr. 19 – Ideology and Values

- Feldman, Stanley. 1988. "Structure and Consistency in Public Opinion: The Role of Core Beliefs and Values." *American Journal of Political Science* 32(2): 416-40.
- Feldman, Stanley, and Marco R. Steenbergen. 2001. "The Humanitarian Foundation of Public Support for Social Welfare." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(3): 658-77.
- Goren, Paul. 2005. "Party Identification and Core Political Values." *American Journal of Political Science* 49(4): 882-97.
- Jacoby, William G. 2006. "Value Choices and American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 706-23.
- Jost, John T., and David M. Amodio. 2012. "Political Ideology as Motivated Social Cognition: Behavioral and Neuroscientific Evidence." *Motivation and Emotion* 36(1): 55-64.

Week 16

Apr. 26 – Presentations