

POLI 4029 Political Psychology

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday
10:30-11:50 AM
Class Location: ZOOM
Instructor: Dr. Bauer

Office: ZOOM LINK provided on Moodle
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2 pm & Thursdays
9- 10 am or by appointment
Contact: nbauer4@lsu.edu

Course Description:

The goal of political science is to explain why citizens engage in certain types of political behavior, and how citizens think about politics. Psychology offers a way to explain how and why individuals behave the way they do. We will consider the role of personality, cognition, emotions, stereotypes, and group dynamics in politics, campaigns, and voting. Throughout the semester, we will learn about key concepts from psychology and we will apply these concepts to politics. We will also investigate how experimental methods can provide insight into what motivates political attitudes and behaviors. As this is an upper level course, there will be an extensive amount of reading and writing.

to Political Psychology. 3rd Edition. Great Britain: Psychology Press.

Introduction

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define core psychological concepts and theories and explain how they apply to politics.
- Synthesize the research questions, hypotheses, methods used, results, and findings from peer-reviewed academic research.
- Explain the limits of rational choice in explaining political behaviors, opinions, and attitude formation.
- Develop an original research question and set of hypotheses that uses psychology to explain political behaviors, opinions, and attitude formation.
- Design an original experiment that measures the psychological motivations behind a political behavior, attitude, or opinion.
- Develop strong analytical writing skills including the ability to develop coherent, logical, and carefully edited prose.

Course Policies:

- Class sessions will be a combination of lectures, discussions, and other in-class (through Zoom) activities. Regular attendance and keeping up with the course readings are necessary to do well in this class. Moreover, the class structure encourages discussion of key concepts (even on Zoom), and these discussions are essential to student learning.
-

92-90 = A-

82-80 = B-

72-70 = C-

62-60 = D-

A - Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B - Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C - Achievement that meets course requirements in every respect.

D - Achievement that is worthy of credit

You will receive feedback on the study proposal, literature review, and theoretical frameworks within 1 week of their due date and

should include an introduction, a statement about why your topic is important, the literature review, your hypotheses, how you will test these hypotheses, and the plan for how you will carry out the experiment including all the materials you will use in the experiment. The final product is worth 85% of the total final paper grade. **You must turn in your first draft by April 20, 2021 by 3 p.m.**

Extra Credit

I will offer extra credit to students who participate in the Media Effects Lab experimental subject pool. Students can earn up to 5 points extra credit on the mid-term up to the point when mid-term grades are due and students can earn up to 5 points extra credit on the final up to the point when the final exam is due. I will discuss the MEL extra Tj-38.c (m)TJ-8 (t)1 (c)t themo (e)6 ()TJ0 d (M)1 (Et)4 (nd

- Huddy, Leonie. (2001), “From Social to Political Identity: A Critical Examination of Social Identity Theory.” *Journal of Social Issues*, 22: 127-156. (on course website)

March 23, 2021: Partisanship as Identity

- Green, Palmquist, and Schickler. *Journal of Democracy* 2. (on course website)
- Klar, Samara. 2014. “Partisanship in a Social Setting.” *American Journal of Political Science* (on course website)

March 25, 2021: **No class, some sort of sad spring break replacement**

March 30, 2021: Partisan Identity & Extreme Political Rhetoric

- Cassese, Eric C. 2019. “Partisan Dehumanization in American Politics.” *Journal of Democracy* (on course website)
- Mason, Lilliana, and Julie Wronski. 2018. “One Tribe to Bind Them All: How Our Social Group Attachments Strengthen Partisanship.” *Journal of Democracy* 9(1): 257-278. (on course website)

April 1, 2021: **No class, theory drafts due by 3 p.m. via Moodle, video on how to write a theory with instructions and guides on Moodle. You are responsible for watching on your own time. Class time = extra office hour time.**

April 6, 2021: Race as a Political Identity

- Piston, Spencer. 2014. “Lighter-Skinned Minorities are More Likely to Support Republicans.” *Journal of Democracy* (on course website)
- White, Ismail. 2014. “Selling Out?: The Politics of Navigating Conflicts between Racial

April 20, 2021: no class work on final papers, , class time=extra office hours.
Final papers due by 3 pm April 20 on Moodle.

Finals Week: