

political psychology

PSCI 7108.002
FALL 2017
FRIDAYS, 9:00-11:30 A.M.
KETCHUM 1B31

JENNIFER WOLAK
242 KETCHUM
wolakj@colorado.edu
OFFICE HOURS: M,W 1-2 p.m.

In this class, we will consider how people think and feel about politics, investigating the psychological underpinnings of the political behavior of citizens. We will start with an overview of the field of political psychology and some of the ways that questions in this field are answered. Next, we will study the psychological roots of political behavior, and the contributions of influences such as socialization, personality, and genes to how citizens and political leaders make decisions. From there, we will consider the mechanisms of how people construct political beliefs and determine political choices, investigating topics such as emotion, cognition, partisan bias, and persuasion. Finally, we will study political psychology of groups, considering the reasons why people dislike other groups, the psychological roots of political conflict, and the routes to cooperation and tolerance.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Course readings will be drawn from several texts as well as journal articles. Book chapters will be accessible via the course website.

- Cramer, Katherine J. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hetherington, Marc J., and Jonathan D. Weiler. 2009. *Authoritarianism and Polarization in American Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Huddy, Leonie, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy. 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kahneman, Daniel. 2011. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

REQUIREMENTS

PARTICIPATION (25% of your final grade)

One important prerequisite of participation is class attendance. Class attendance is vital and required.

It is essential to read all of the assigned readings and think carefully about what you have read in advance of the class session. Frantically skimming the articles in the minutes before class begins will limit the quality of our class discussion and impede your ability to learn anything useful. Your education and our class discussion of the readings will both benefit from your careful reading of the articles as well as the time you spend in advance of class reflecting on what you have read and learned.

You will also be expected to actively participate in class discussions in a thoughtful way.

LEADERSHIP OF CLASS DISCUSSION (15% of your final grade)

For three weeks during the semester, you will be responsible for leading class discussion. Your goal is to ensure that the class engages in thoughtful reflection about what we can learn from that week's readings. How you do this is up to you and your fellow discussion leader. You could spend time discussing the articles individually, engaging the themes that cross different articles, connecting that week's topic to prior readings, or discussing ways to extend and elaborate on the week's readings. Your grade will reflect the quality of your preparation, as well as the quantity and quality of class discussion you generate.

You will be graded on your participation and discussion leadership, which will count toward 40% of your final grade. You can choose which assignments will compose the remainder of your grade from the following options:

AN EXTRA WEEK OF DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP (each worth 5% of final grade, if selected)

RESEARCH DESIGN RESPONSE PAPERS (each is worth 5% of your final grade, if selected)

In these response papers, you will use the week's readings as inspiration for a possible future research project (or two). In your memo, develop a plan for how you could empirically extend ideas raised in that week's readings. Your proposal might extend ideas raised in the studies, or you might propose an interesting question that the authors do not consider. Describe your research question, why it is important and how it would contribute to the literature, the central hypotheses you would want to test, and how you would test your hypotheses. These papers should be single-spaced and two to three pages in length. Turn them in at the beginning of class on the day we discuss that topic.

BOOK REVIEW AND CRITIQUE (each is worth 10% of your final grade, if selected)

If there is a book on political psychology that you are interested in that is not on this syllabus, you can choose to read it and write up a book report. When we cover the most closely related topic in class, you will present a short summary of the book to the class and engage some of the strengths and weaknesses of the text. You should also turn in a book review essay (two to four single-spaced pages) on the same matters, as a hard copy and as an electronic copy for distribution to the rest of the class via the course website. More details are outlined on a separate handout.

LITERATURE REVIEW (each is worth 20% of your final grade, if selected)

Another option is to write an essay that assesses the current literature on a topic of your choosing (given instructor approval). This essay should be six to eight single-spaced pages in length and is due the last week of the semester. The central goal of the paper will be to assess and summarize the research about

a particular topic – to identify the central question or questions, highlight the most important literature related to the topic, and provide commentary about the strengths and weaknesses of the current research in the area. More details are outlined on a separate handout.

RESEARCH PAPER (worth 50% of your final grade, if selected)

You can also choose to develop a research paper that tests an interesting question about political psychology. This paper should follow the format of the kinds of academic papers read in class – including development of a research question, a review of relevant literature, theory, tests of these explanations, and interpretation of what you find. Expectations for the research paper are outlined in a separate handout.

DZL IS YOUR FRIEND

This syllabus, assignments, and other exciting material can be accessed on the class website on learn.colorado.edu.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. You can contact the Disability Services office for more information at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

SOME IMPORTANT COMMENTS ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are not familiar with the rules of citing sources in written work or what constitutes plagiarism, you should contact me or refer to the University Honor Code at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode. Academic dishonesty will result in an F in the course and referral to the Honor Court for additional non-academic sanctions.

All papers are expected to be original work, not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course (unless prior approval of all instructors involved is obtained).

political psychology

1. ABOUT POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Friday, September 8

Introduction to the course and the study of political psychology

- *general background on the study of political behavior:* Kinder, Donald R. 2004. "Pale Democracy: Opinion and Action in Postwar America." In Edward D. Mansfield and Richard Sisson, eds., *The Evolution of Political Knowledge*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press.
- Rahn, Wendy M., John L. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Rudolph. 2002. "Political Psychology and Political Science." In James H. Kuklinski, ed., *Thinking about Political Psychology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Huddy, Leonie, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy. 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

2. POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Friday, September 15

Parental socialization, how we develop our political orientations

- Sears, David O., and Christia Brown. 2013. "Childhood and Adult Political Development." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Greenstein, Fred I. 1960. "The Benevolent Leader: Children's Images of Political Authority." *American Political Science Review* 54: 934-945.
- Jennings, M. Kent, Laura Stoker, and Jake Bowers. 2009. "Politics across Generations: Family Transmission Reexamined." *The Journal of Politics* 71:782-799.
- Beck, Paul Allen, and M. Kent Jennings. 1982. "Pathways to Participation." *American Political Science Review* 76(1): 94-108.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources and Growth in Young Adulthood." *American Political Science Review* 96:41-57.
- Fox, Richard, and Jennifer Lawless. 2014. "Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition." *American Political Science Review* 108:499-519.

3. BIOLOGICAL ROOTS OF BEHAVIOR

Friday, September 22

Genetics and the roots of political behavior, physiological response

- Funk, Carolyn L. 2013. "Genetic Foundations of Political Behavior." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99:153-167.
- Hatemi, Peter K., Carolyn L. Funk, Sarah E. Medland, Hermine M. Maes, Judy L. Silberg, Nicholas G. Martin, and Lindon J. Eaves. 2009. "Genetic and Environmental Transmission of Political Attitudes Over a Life Time." *Journal of Politics* 71:1141-1156.
- Dawes, Christopher, David Cesarini, James H. Fowler, Magnus Johannesson, Patrik K. Magnusson, and Sven Oskarsson. 2014. "The Relationship between Genes, Psychological Traits, and Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 888-903.
- Oxley, Douglas R., Kevin B. Smith, John R. Alford, Matthew V. Hibbing, Jennifer L. Miller, Mario Scalora, Peter K. Hatemi, and John R. Hibbing. 2008. "Political Attitudes Vary with Physiological Traits." *Science* 321:1667-1670.
- Petersen, Michael Bang. 2012. "Social Welfare as Small-Scale Help: Evolutionary Psychology and the Deservingness Heuristic." *American Journal of Political Science* 56:1-16.

4. PERSONALITY

Friday, September 29

Political personality, the Big Five, authoritarianism

- Caprara, Gian Vittorio, and Michele Vecchione. 2013. "Personality Approaches to Political Behavior." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hetherington, Marc J., and Jonathan D. Weiler. 2009. *Authoritarianism and Polarization in American Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism." *Political Psychology* 24: 41-74.

5. IDEOLOGY AND VALUES

Friday, October 6

Ideology, core values, the structure of beliefs

- Feldman, Stanley. 2013. "Political Ideology." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter, ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: The Free Press.
- Conover, Pamela Johnston, and Stanley Feldman. 1981. "The Origins and Meaning of Liberal/Conservative Self-Identifications." *American Journal of Political Science* 25:617-645.
- Goren, Paul. 2001. "Core Principles and Policy Reasoning in Mass Publics: A Test of Two Theories." *British Journal of Political Science* 31:159-177.
- Graham, Jesse, Jonathan Haidt, and Brian A. Nosek. 2009. "Liberals and Conservatives Rely on Different Sets of Moral Foundations." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 96(5):1029-1046.
- Schwartz, Shalom H., and Wolfgang Bilsky. 1990. "Toward A Universal Psychological Structure of Human Values." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 58:878-891.

6. INFORMATION PROCESSING

Friday, October 13

Memory, associative networks, information processing, impression formation, the role of information in evaluation

- McGraw, Kathleen M. 2000. "Contributions of the Cognitive Approach to Political Psychology." *Political Psychology* 21:805-832.
- Steenbergen, Marco R., and Milton Lodge. 2003. "Process Matters: Cognitive Models of Candidate Evaluation." In Michael B. MacKuen and George Rabinowitz, eds., *Electoral Democracy*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8.
- Zaller, John R., and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions Versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36:579-616.
- Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89:309-326.

7. EMOTION

Friday, October 20

Emotions and their consequences

- Brader, Ted, and George E. Marcus. 2013. "Emotion and Political Psychology." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- MacKuen, Michael, Jennifer Wolak, Luke Keele, and George Marcus. 2010. "Civic Engagements: Resolute Partisanship or Reflective Deliberation." *American Journal of Political Science* 54:440-458.

8. HOT COGNITION AND AUTOMATICITY

Friday, October 27

Hot cognition, automaticity, affect

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

9. INFERENCE AND HEURISTICS

Friday, November 3

Inference, heuristics, short cuts, civic competence

- Conover, Pamela Johnston, and Stanley Feldman. 1989. "Candidate Perception in an Ambiguous World: Campaigns, Cues, and Inference Processes." *American Journal of Political Science* 33:912-940.
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45:951-71.
- Kahneman, Daniel. 2011. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

10. MOTIVATION AND BIAS

Friday, November 10

Motivated reasoning, bias in decision-making

- Kunda, Ziva. 1990. "The Case for Motivated Reasoning." *Psychological Bulletin* 108(3):480-498.
- Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3):755-769.
- Nyhan, Brendan, and Jason Reifler. 2010. "When Corrections Fail: The Persistence of Political Misperceptions." *Political Behavior* 32:303-330.
- Druckman, James N., Erik Peterson, and Rune Slothuus. 2013. "How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation." *American Political Science Review* 107: 57-79.
- Iyengar, Shanto, and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. "Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59: 690-707.
- Lelkes, Yphtach, and Sean J. Westwood. 2017. "The Limits of Partisan Prejudice." *Journal of Politics* 79: 485-501.

11. PERSUASION AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

Friday, November 17

Political persuasion, attitude change

- Sears, David O., and Richard E. Whitney. 1973. "Political Persuasion." In Ithiel de Sola Pool, Wilbur Schramm, Frederick W. Frey, Nathan Maccoby, and Edwin B. Parker, eds., *Handbook of Communication*. Chicago: Rand McNally. Pages 253-263.
- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 7-9.
- Feldman, Stanley, Leonie Huddy, and George E. Marcus. 2012. "Limits of Elite Influence on Public Opinion." *Critical Review* 24:489-503.
- Bullock, John G. 2011. "Elite Influence on Public Opinion in an Informed Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 105:496-515.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Howard Lavine. 2005. "Ambivalence, Information, and Electoral Choice." *American Political Science Review* 99:169-184.

FALL BREAK

Friday, November 24

12. SOCIAL IDENTITY

Friday, December 1

Social identities, in-group/out-group sentiments

- Huddy, Leonie. 2013. "From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Tajfel, Henri, and John C. Turner. 1986. "The Social Identity Theory of Intergroup Behavior." In Stephen Worchel and William G. Austin, eds. *Psychology of Intergroup Relations*. Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Cramer, Katherine J. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

13. PREJUDICE AND GROUP CONFLICT

Friday, December 8

Understanding the roots of prejudice and group conflict, racialization and discrimination

- Kinder, Donald R. 2013. "Prejudice and Politics." In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Devine, Patricia G. 1989. "Stereotypes and Prejudice: Their Automatic and Controlled Components." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 56:5-18.
- Sears, David O., Colette Van Laar, Mary Carrillo, and Rick Kosterman. 1997. "Is It Really Racism? The Origins of White Americans' Opposition to Race-Targeted Policies." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 61:16-53.
- Tesler, Michael. 2013. "The Return of Old-Fashioned Racism to White Americans' Partisan Preferences in the Early Obama Era." *Journal of Politics* 75:110-123.
- Banks, Antoine J. and Nicholas A. Valentino. 2012. "Emotional Substrates of White Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 286-297.
- Tesler, Michael. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Race and Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 690-704.

14. POLITICAL TOLERANCE

Friday, December 15

Origins of political tolerance, limiting prejudice

- Sullivan, John L., Stanley Feldman, and George E. Marcus. 1982. "The Sources of Political Tolerance: A Multivariate Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 75:92-106.
- Gibson, James L. 1988. "Political Intolerance and Political Repression During the McCarthy Red Scare." *American Political Science Review* 82:511-529.
- Kuklinski, James H., Ellen Riggle, Victor Ottati, and Norbert Schwarz. 1991. "The Cognitive and Affective Bases of Political Tolerance Judgments." *American Journal of Political Science* 35:1-27.
- Gibson, James L. 2008. "Intolerance and Political Repression in the United States: A Half Century after McCarthyism." *American Journal of Political Science* 52:96-108.
- Paluck, Elizabeth Levy. 2009. "Reducing Intergroup Prejudice and Conflict Using the Media: A Field Experiment in Rwanda." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 96(3):574-87.