

POS 4400: Political Psychology
Summer 2019
June 7 – July 3, 2019. 11am-1:15pm
Baldwin 301

Professor: Geoffrey Sheagley
Office: Baldwin 380G
Email: geoff.sheagley@uga.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (typically available after class sessions).

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of political psychology. The content of this course draws on theories and research from political science, psychology, and mass communication to understand different aspects of politics. Our focus in this class is on members of the mass public, with the expectation being that completing this course will provide you a better understanding of how politics and political processes operate from the perspective of ordinary people.

In the first portion of the course we will examine the formation and expression of people's political beliefs. We will pay particular attention to how people process information, memory, and motivation. In the second portion of the class we will focus on political identities. The final portion of our class covers the mass media.

Office Hours and Help

I will strive to make sure that the course is understandable and that you do not feel lost. If you have any questions about the course content, structure, or assignments please do not hesitate to contact me. This is especially important because of how quickly we will cover material during the summer session.

Required Books

1. Cramer, Katherine. 2016 "The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker." University of Chicago Press.
2. Klar, Samara and Yanna Krupnikov. 2016. "Independent Politics: How American Disdain for Parties Leads to Political Inaction." Cambridge University Press.

All books are available for purchase at the University bookstore. You can also find a cheaper copy at various online locations. All other readings can be accessed on eLC.

Grading

Your letter grade in the class reflects the percentage of the total number of available points you obtain in the class. The distribution I use is:

Grade	Percent
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69
F	<60

The following are each of the areas in which points are assigned in the class.

1. Final Paper (40%)

Each student in the course is required to work on an experimental design throughout the term. This assignment will give you experience in thinking about and designing an original experiment on the topic of political psychology. Completing this assignment will require you to identify an area of political psychology that you want to research. You will be expected to read additional work related to your research interest (this will require you to access information from outside of our class) and use this information to narrow your interests and derive a testable hypothesis or hypotheses from this literature. You will then be asked to design an experiment that will test and answer your research questions. You **will not** be expected to conduct your research study as a part of this course.

You will have a great deal of freedom in choosing your topic. To keep you on track and to provide you timely feedback, portions of the research proposal will be due throughout the term. The dates for these assignments are listed in the course schedule and separate paper assignment sheet. During the first week of class I will also provide a handout with a more detailed list of my expectations for the paper and a description of each assignment.

2. Exam 1 (20%)

An in-class midterm exam will take place on Friday, June 21. The exam will cover material assigned since the beginning of class.

3. Exam 2 (20%)

An in-class final exam will take place on Friday, July 5. The exam will focus on material assigned after the first exam, although some earlier material will also be relevant.

4. Participation (20%)

The participation portion of this grade will be based on your regular attendance, successful completion of in-class activities, participation in class discussion, and posing of questions during lecture or other activities.

All students in my class are given 1 “freebie” absence. My only requirement is that you email me prior to class to inform me that you will miss class. **Note:** If you miss more than 2 class sessions without an excused absence then you will receive no credit for class participation.

Grade Change

Any appeals of a grade must be made at least **24-hours after** I hand back the assignment or test. If you would like to appeal a grade, prior to meeting with me you must submit a written statement detailing why you think that your grade should be changed. I will then meet with you to discuss your statement.

If I have made a mistake in totaling your grade in the class (e.g., I did not add up all of the points correctly) then you do not need to write the statement. Talk to me after class or during office hours and I will fix the mistake.

Class Administration

eLearning

You will submit assignments and obtain additional reading assignments from the eLearning site associated with our class (<https://uga.view.usg.edu>). Check the site periodically for any updates to the course readings.

Class Participation

Participation is a graded portion of this class. This includes attending class and actively participating. If you are unable to attend a class and you have a valid excuse, such as a note from a doctor, please inform me.

Technology (Laptops, Tablets, Cell Phones, etc.)

You are welcome to use a laptop or a tablet to take notes and to access the course material during class. Smartphones are not permitted in class. Please make sure these devices are silenced or turned off during our class session.

Deadlines

All assignments are due *at the beginning of class* on the due date. If an assignment is turned in after the beginning of class on the due date 15% will be deducted from your assignment grade. An additional 15% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

For example, if you turn in an assignment one full day after it was due, it will be deducted 30% (15% for not being turned in at the start of class on the day it was due and another 15% for being turned in one day later). Assignments turned in more than 3 days late will receive an F.

Valid Absence Excuses

If you have a significant conflict that causes you to miss class (e.g., a personal, family, or medical emergency), you should email me within a week of the missed due date to make sure you can complete the assignment or exam in a timely manner. Documentation is required for any makeup exam.

Academic Honesty

The University of Georgia has an academic honesty policy. Academic integrity is required for a positive learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Additionally, I will forward your name to the University. You can read the policies in their entirety here: [https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Definitions for Purposes of this Policy/](https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Definitions%20for%20Purposes%20of%20this%20Policy/)

Disability Resource Center

If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

Withdrawal Policy

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal- passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here:

<http://www.reg.uga.edu/policies/withdrawals>

Class Schedule

Week 1 – Introductions (6/7)

Introductions, syllabus review, and overview of political psychology.

- Borgida et al. 2002
- **Due:** Syllabus Quiz. Available on eLC. Complete by 6/10 at 11:00am.

Week 2 – Foundations (6/10-6/14)

Monday: Thinking & Reasoning about politics

- Kahneman (Chapters 1, 2, & 7)

Tuesday: Experimental Method

- McDermott 2002 (pgs. 31-41; 50-57)
- Druckman et al. 2011
- Druckman 2001

Wednesday: Impression Formation & Information Processing

- McGraw 2003
- Funk 1996
- Taber 2003 (pages 433-446)

Thursday: Motivation & Bias

- Taber 2001
- Bolsen and Druckman 2016
- Flynn, Nyhan, and Reifler 2017

Friday: Political Knowledge

- Delli Carpini & Keeter 1996
- Pew report 2017
- Lau and Redlawsk 2001
- **Due:** Paper Assignment 1

Week 3 – Party Identification & Independents (6/17-6/21)

Monday: Party Identification

- Green, Palmquist, and Schickler 2002
- Klar & Krupnikov (Chapters 1 [skim] & 2)

Tuesday: Independents I

- Klar & Krupnikov (Chapters 3-5)

Wednesday: Independents II

- Klar & Krupnikov (Chapters 6-8)

Thursday: Catch up & Midterm Review

- No readings

Friday: Midterm Exam

- No readings

Week 4 – Identity and Intergroup Attitudes (6/24-6/28)

Monday: Intergroup Attitudes

- Huddy 2013
- Iyengar et al. 2012
- **Due:** Peer Review Experiment

Tuesday: Race & Prejudice

- Tesler 2016 (Ch. 1)
- Devine 1989
- Green & Wong 2002

Wednesday: Gender

- Bos and Schneider 2013
- Eagley et al. 2011
- Final reading TBD

Thursday: Rural Identity I

- Cramer 2016 (Chapters 1-4)
 - Skim Chapters 1 & 2. Focus on 3 & 4.

Friday: Rural Identity II

- Cramer 2016 (Chapters 5, 6, & 8)

Week 5 – Media & Conclusions (7/1-7-5)

Monday: Media Effects I

- Iyengar and Kinder 1987
- Mutz 2015 (Chapters 1 & 2)
- **Due:** Experimental Design Paper

Tuesday: Media Effects II

- Mutz (Chapters 3 & 4)

Wednesday: Final Exam Review

- No readings

Thursday: No class – 4th of July

- No readings

Friday: Final Exam

- No readings