



The University of Georgia

Department of Political Science

**POLS 4790 (97-470):
Special Topics in American Politics:
Political Psychology
Spring Semester 2006**

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Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment
Class Meets: Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 9:05 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. in Baldwin 304
Link to Website: <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~kmulliga/>

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of political psychology. We will discuss the psychology of political elites and leaders, personality and politics, and the origins, nature, measurement, structure, and functions of attitudes. We will also discuss, among other things, racial attitudes, unconscious cognition, ambivalence, candidate evaluation, the influence of the media, persuasion and attitude change, social identity, and group conflict.

Required Reading

The course requires two books and selected readings. The books have been placed on order at the UGA bookstore and the Off Campus Bookstore. Other required readings will be made available on the class website: <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~kmulliga/>.

Oskamp, Stuart, and P. Wesley Schultz. 2005. *Attitudes and Opinions*, 3rd ed. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Cialdini, Robert B. 2001. *Influence: Science and Practice*, 4th ed. Boston., Mass.: Allyn and Bacon.



Course Requirements and Grading

First Writing Assignment. 15% of final grade

For the first writing assignment I will ask you to write a psychobiographical analysis of President Bush, President Clinton, or one of the contenders for the presidency in 2008 from the perspective of personality theory. A paper copy of the first writing assignment is due in class during the fifth week of the semester. We will discuss personality theory during the second week of the semester. Written instructions on the psychobiographical analysis will be provided. (Please see below for the policy on late assignments)

Midterm Exam. 25% of overall grade

The midterm exam will be held during class during the seventh week of the semester. It will cover all the material dealt with in class discussion and reading up to the day of the exam. The midterm will consist of multiple choice questions. (Please see below for the course policy on missed exams)

Second Writing Assignment. 25% of final grade

The second writing assignment is due during the sixteenth week of the semester. It is a critical review of the assigned book by Cialdini, *Influence: Science and Practice*. Written Instructions will be provided. (Please see below for the policy on late assignments)

Final Exam. 25% of overall grade

The final exam will be held during final exam week at the time specified by the university registrar. The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm. (Please see below for the course policy on missed exams)

Classroom Attendance and Participation. 10% of overall grade

Classroom participation is encouraged! To the extent the material allows, we will incorporate a mix of lecture and discussion. Come prepared to talk. Attendance will be taken intermittently. Your participation grade will be awarded based on my perception of your attendance and thoughtful participation in class. Please come to class on time.

The university bulletin states that “students are expected to attend classes regularly.” If for some reason you have a legitimate reason for missing class, if possible, please send me an email letting me know ahead of time that you cannot attend class, and why. If you cannot let me know ahead of time, please tell me afterward. In general, students benefit themselves by attending every class, informing the instructor when they cannot, and by participating actively in class.



Overview of Course Requirements

- First Writing Assignment 15% of overall grade
- Midterm Exam 25% of overall grade
- Final Exam 25% of overall grade
- Second Writing Assignment 25% of overall grade
- Classroom Participation 10% of overall grade

Grading

Your writing assignments, exams, and overall grade in the course will be calculated according to the following scale. The writing assignments and participation grades will be awarded as the midpoint of the letter-grade range. Thus an “A” on the second writing assignment, worth 25 percent of the overall grade, would be awarded as a “96.5.” Since the University of Georgia does not observe pluses or minuses, pluses and minuses, though observed on grades awarded throughout the course, will not be observed on final course grades. Thus if your final grade is an “A-“ you will receive an “A,” if your final grade is a “B+” or “B-“ you will receive a “B,” etc.

A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	83 - 86.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	73 - 76.99
C-	70 - 72.99
D+	67 - 69.99
D	60 - 66.99
F	0 - 59.99

Policy on Late Assignments and Research Papers

I regret that writing assignments submitted via email will **NOT** be accepted unless explicit **prior** permission is granted by the instructor. *Late* assignments (those not ready to be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due) are penalized one full letter grade (e.g., from an “A” to a “B”) for each day that they are late. This means that an “A” assignment turned in five days late automatically receives a failing grade. *Students who find themselves turning in their assignment late would benefit from communicating with the instructor before turning in their late assignment.*

Policy on Missed Examinations

Missed Exams will receive a grade of zero except in cases of demonstrated, appropriate, and verifiable emergencies or tragedies or where the student has prior approval from the instructor. In cases of missed exams excused by the instructor, a makeup exam will be rescheduled at the convenience of the instructor.



Policy on Academic Honesty

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own, done exclusively for this course. Instances of suspected cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's ideas or words without proper attribution) will be dealt with in accordance with the university's policy on academic honesty. Please note that penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an excuse for cheating or plagiarism. If you have any questions about what is or is not cheating or plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services office will be accommodated according to university policy. For more information contact Disabilities Services at 542-8719.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that that this schedule is a guideline. Actual material covered in class will deviate from the schedule according to the progress of the class. Unless otherwise indicated, we will follow the order of the topics as listed in the schedule. *It is important that you be aware of where we are in the progress of the course and where we deviate from this schedule.* This will be made clear in class.

Introduction

Week 1

Mon., 1/9	Introduction to the Course Reading: None
Wed., 1/11	Introduction and Short History of Political Psychology Reading: McGuire, "They Poly-Psy Relationship: Three Phases of a Long Relationship," from <i>Explorations in Political Psychology</i> (1995)
Fri., 1/13	Short History of Political Psychology, Cont.

Psychology of Political Elites and Leaders

Week 2

Mon., 1/16	Martin Luther King Day (NO CLASS)
Wed., 1/18	Personality and Politics Reading: Ch. 1 and Ch. 8 of Barber, <i>Presidential Character</i>
Fri., 1/20	The Psychology of Political Elites and Leaders Reading: TBA



Personality and Politics

Week 3

- Mon., 1/23 Authoritarian Personality and its Critics
Reading: Altmeyer, Ch. 1 of *Right Wing Authoritarianism*
- Wed., 1/25 Milgram's *Obedience to Authority*
Reading: Milgram, Ch. 1 of *Obedience to Authority*
- Fri., 1/27 Authoritarian Personality Debate, Cont.

Political Attitudes

Week 4

- Mon., 1/30 Introduction to Attitudes
Reading: Ch. 1 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 2/1 Measuring Attitudes
Reading: Ch. 3 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Fri., 2/3 Attitudes, Cont.

Week 5

- Mon., 2/6 Attitude Structure and Function
Reading: Ch. 5 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 2/8 **FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE**
Attitude Structure and Function, Cont.
- Fri., 2/10 Attitude Strength
Reading: Miller and Peterson, "Theoretical and Empirical Implications of Attitude Strength." *Journal of Politics* (2004)

Origins of Attitudes

Week 6

- Mon., 2/13 Political Socialization
Reading: Ch. 8 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 2/15 Political Socialization, Cont.



Fri., 2/17 Genetic Transmission of Attitudes
Reading: Alford, Funk, and Hibbing, "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* (2005)
DeAngelis, "Are Beliefs Inherited?" *Monitor on Psychology* (2004)

Week 7

Mon., 2/20 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Unconscious Attitudes

Wed., 2/22 Unconscious Attitudes
Reading: Ch. 4 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
Take the race and presidential IAT tests online at ...
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

Fri., 2/24 Unconscious Attitudes, Cont.
Reading: Patricia Devine, "Stereotypes and Prejudice: Their Automatic and Controlled Components." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (1989)

Week 8

Mon., 2/27 Unconscious Attitudes, Cont.

Ambivalence and Value Conflict

Wed., 3/1 Ambivalence and Value Conflict
Reading: Zaller and Feldman, "Political Culture of Ambivalence," *American Journal of Political Science* (1992)

Fri., 3/3 Ambivalence and Value Conflict, Cont.

Belief Systems

Week 9

Mon., 3/6 Political Belief Systems and Ideology
Reading: Ch. 7 of *Attitudes and Opinions*

Wed., 3/8 Belief Systems, Cont.

Fri., 3/10 Belief Systems, Cont.

Week 10 SPRING BREAK



Attitudes and Behavior

Week 11

- Mon., 3/20 Attitudes and Behavior
Reading: Ch. 12 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 3/22 Attitudes and Behavior, Cont.
- Fri., 3/24 Attitudes and Behavior, Cont.

Persuasion and Attitude Change

Week 12

- Mon., 3/27 Mass Media Effects
Reading: Ch. 9 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 3/29 Media Effects, Cont.
- Fri., 3/31 Persuasion and Attitude Change
Reading: Ch. 10 of *Attitudes and Opinions*

Week 13

- Mon., 4/3 Persuasion and Attitude Change
Reading: Ch. 11 of *Attitudes and Opinions*
- Wed., 4/5 Persuasion and Attitude Change, Cont.
- Fri., 4/7 Persuasion and Attitude Change, Cont.

Social Identity and Group Conflict

Week 14

- Mon., 4/10 Social Identity
Reading: Leonie Huddy, "From Social to Political Identity: A Critical Examination of Social Identity Theory." *Political Psychology* (2001)
- Wed., 4/12 Group Conflict
Reading: Sherif, "Experiments in Group Conflict." *Scientific American* (1956)
- Fri., 4/14 Identity and Conflict, Cont.



Racial Attitudes and *The Race Card*

Week 15

Mon., 4/17

Racial Attitudes

Reading: Ch. 16 of *Attitudes and Opinions*

Wed., 4/19

Racial Attitudes, Cont.

Reading: Tali Mendleberg, "Executing Hortons: Racial Crime in the 1988 Presidential Campaign." *Public Opinion Quarterly* (1997)

Huber and Lapinski, "The 'Race Card' Revisited: Assessing Racial Priming in Policy Contests." *American Journal of Political Science* (Forthcoming)

Fri., 4/21

Racial Attitudes, Cont.

Cialdini's *Influence: Science and Practice*

Week 16

Mon., 4/24

FINAL PAPER DUE

Influence: Science and Practice

Reading: Cialdini, Ch. 1-2

Wed., 4/26

Influence: Science and Practice

Reading: Cialdini, Ch. 3-5

Fri., 4/28

Influence: Science and Practice

Reading: Cialdini, Ch. 6-8

Week 17

Mon., 5/1

Cushion Day

FINAL EXAM

Wed., 5/3

FINAL EXAM (8 – 11 a.m.)