

PS4417G: Special Topics in Political Psychology

Department of Political Science – Western University, Winter 2019

Wednesday 1:30pm-3:30pm, SSC 4112

Instructor: Dr. Mathieu Turgeon

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-12pm or by appointment

Course description

The field of political psychology is vast and cuts through many subfields of political science. The focus in this course is about how theories of psychology apply to explain people's political attitudes and behaviors. In particular, the course is about how people receive, process, and use information they receive from their environment, interactions with others, the news media, and political elites to develop, change or maintain their political attitudes and make political decisions. Topics to be explored include candidate evaluation and choice, political knowledge and misinformation, media effects, political polarization, and racial prejudice. Students will also be introduced to basic notions of the experimental design, a requisite to understanding the work produced in political psychology.

Course text

The required text for this course is:

Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press.

Other readings are available electronically through Western Libraries and the course's OWL site.

Course assignments

Students will be assessed in many different ways, including attendance, reading quizzes, short essays, and a final take-home exam.

- **Class attendance (10%):** class attendance is mandatory. The class will meet 12 times during the semester and students are allowed only one unexcused absence.
- **3 reading quizzes each worth 10%:** I expect students to do all the required readings. To ensure that students keep up with the readings, I will randomly apply four reading quizzes during the semester. Students are required to take a minimum of three of the four quizzes, but can take all four. In that case, the three highest grades will be recorded.
- **2 short essays each worth 15%:** Students are required to produce two essays of about 1250 words each in response to two prompts. The first prompt will be distributed on February 06 and the second on March 06. The first essay is due in class on **March 06** and the second on **April 03**. Essays are to be printed. No electronic copies will be accepted. No late essay will be accepted.
- **Final take-home exam (30%):** Students will be given a cumulative final take-home exam on April 03 to be turned in by **5pm on April 05**. The exam will consist of six short

answer questions. Exams are to be printed. No electronic copies will be accepted. No late exam will be accepted. I will be in my office until 5pm on April 05 to receive your exam.

Topics and readings

Week #1 (January 09): Course introduction

Review of syllabus and class organization.

Week #2 (January 16): Introduction to Political Psychology

1. Krosnick et al. 2010. "The Psychological Underpinnings of Political Behavior" In S. T. Fiske et al., eds., *Handbook of Social Psychology*. 5th Edition, Wiley.
2. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1: "Experimentation in Political Science."

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Sears, D. O. 1987. "Political Psychology." *Annual Review of Psychology* 38: 229-58.
- ◇ Simon, Herbert A. 1985. "Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 79: 293-304.

Week #3 (January 23): Experimental Political Science

1. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-5: "Designing Experiments."

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6-9: "The Development of Experiments in Political Science."

Week #4 (January 30): Political Decision-Making and Evaluations

1. Redlawsk, David P., and Richard R. Lau. 2013. "Behavioral Decision-Making." In L. Huddy, D. O. Sears, and J. S. Levy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 13: "Candidate Impressions and Evaluations."

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Quattrone, George A., and Amos Tversky. 1988. "Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice." *American Political Science Review* 82: 719-36.
- ◇ Popkin, Samuel L. 1991. *The Reasoning Voter*, Chapters 1 and 4. University of Chicago Press.

Week #5 (February 06): Online and Memory-Based Information Processing

1. Lodge, Milton. et al. 1989. "An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 83:399-419.
2. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 11: "Attitude Change Experiments in Political Science."
3. Hayes, Danny and Mathieu Turgeon. 2010. "A Matter of Distinction: Candidate Polarization and Information Processing in election Campaigns." *American Politics Research* 38: 165-192.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Wyer and Srull. 1989. "Human Cognition in its Social Context." *Psychological Review* 93: 322-359.
- ◇ Kim, Young M. and Kelly Garrett. 2011. "Online and Memory-based: Revisiting the Relationship Between Candidate Evaluation Processing Models." *Political Behavior* 34: 345-368.

Week #6 (February 13): Heuristics and Cues

1. Tversky, Amos, and Daniel t. Kahneman. 1974. "Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases." *Science* 185: 1124-31.
2. Lupia, Arthur. 1994. "Shortcuts versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections." *American Political Science Review* 88: 63-76.
3. Kuklinski, James. H., Paul J. Quirk, Jennifer Jerit, and Robert F. Rich. 2001. "The Political Environment and Citizen Competence." *American Journal of Political Science*, 45: 410-424.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Bullock, John G. 2011. "Elite Influence on Public Opinion in an Informed Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 105: 496-515.
- ◇ Dancy, Logan and G. Sheagley. 2013. "Heuristics Behaving Badly: Party Cues and Voter Knowledge." *American Journal of Political Science* 57: 312-325.

Week #7 (February 20): Winter break reading week

Week #8 (February 27): Motivated Reasoning, Political Knowledge, and Misinformation

1. Taber, Charles S. and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50: 755-769.
2. Iyengar, Shanto., and Kyu S. Hahn. 2009. "Red Media, Blue Media: Evidence of Ideological Selectivity in Media Use." *Journal of Communication* 59: 19-39.
3. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 12: "Political Knowledge."
4. Kuklinski, James H., Paul J. Quirk, Jennifer Jerit, David Schwieder, and Robert F. Rich. 2000. "Misinformation and the Currency of citizenship." *Journal of Politics* 62: 585-598.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Lord, Charles G., Lee Ross, and Mark R. Lepper. 1979. "Biased Assimilation and Attitude Polarization: The Effects of Prior Theories on Subsequently Considered Evidence." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 37: 2098-2109.
- ◇ Cohen, Geoffrey L., Joshua Aronson, and Claude M. Steele. 2000. "When Beliefs Yield to Evidence: Reducing Biased Evaluation by Affirming the Self." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 26: 1151-1164.
- ◇ Taber, Charles S., Damon Cann, and Simona Kucsova. 2009. "The Motivated Processing of Political Arguments." *Political Behavior* 31: 137-155.

Week #9 (March 06): Media Effects

1. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 14: "Media and Politics."
2. Nelson, Thomas E., et al. 1997. "Media Framing of a Civil Liberties Conflict and Its Effect on Tolerance." *American Political Science Review* 91: 567-584.
3. Druckman, James. 2004. "Political Preference Formation: Competition, Deliberation, and the (Ir)relevance of Framing." *American Political Science Review* 98: 671-686.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Tversky, Amos, and Daniel Kahneman. 1981. "The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice." *Science* 211: 453-58.
- ◇ Chong, Dennis, and James N. Druckman. 2007. "Framing Public Opinion in Competitive Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 101: 637-55.

Week #10 (March 13): Racial Priming

1. Huber, Gregory A., and John S. Lapinski. 2006. "The 'Race Card' Revisited: Assessing Racial Priming in Policy Contests." *American Journal of Political Science* 50: 421-40.
2. Mendelberg, Tali. 2008. "Racial Priming Revived." *Perspectives on Politics* 6: 109-23.
3. Mendelberg, Tali. 2008. "Racial Priming: Issues in Research Design and Interpretation." *Perspectives on Politics* 6: 135-40.
4. Huber, Gregory A., and John S. Lapinski. 2008. "Testing the Implicit-Explicit Model of Racialized Political Communication." *Perspectives on Politics* 6: 125-34.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Gilliam Jr., F. D. and S. Iyengar. 2000. "Prime Suspects: The Influence of Local Television News on the Viewing Public." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 560-573.
- ◇ Tesler, Michael. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 690-704.

Week #11 (March 20): Attitude Development and Strength

1. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 10.
2. Zaller, John and S. Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions Versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36: 579-616.
3. Turgeon, Mathieu. 2009. "'Just Thinking:' Attitude Development, Public Opinion, and Political Representation." *Political Behavior* 31: 353-378.

4. Miller, J. and D. A. M. Peterson. 2004. "Theoretical and Empirical Implications of Attitude Strength." *Journal of Politics* 66: 847-867.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Erikson, Robert S. and L. Stoker. 2011. "Caught in the Draft: The Effects of Vietnam Draft Lottery Status on Political Attitudes." *American Political Science Review* 105: 221-237.
- ◇ Oliver, J. Eric and T. J. Wood. 2014. "Conspiracy Theories and the Paranoid Style(s) of Mass Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 952-966.

Week #12 (March 27): Intergroup Relations and Polarization

1. Tajfel, Henri. 1982. "Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations." *Annual Review of Psychology* 33: 1-39.
2. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 21: "Racial Identity and Experimental Methodology."
3. Iyengar, Shanto, Gaurav Sood, and Yphtach Lelkes. 2012. "Affect, Not Ideology: A Social Identity Perspective on Polarization." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76: 405-31.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ White, Ismail K. 2007. "When Race Matters and When It Doesn't: Racial Group Differences in Response to Racial Cues." *American Political Science Review* 101: 339-354.
- ◇ 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.

Week #13 (April 03): Race and Racial Prejudice

1. Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., & Lupia, A. (Eds.). 2011. *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 22.
2. Peffley, Mark A. et al. 1997. "Racial Stereotypes and Whites' Political Views of Blacks in Context of Welfare and Crime." *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 30-60.
3. Weber, Christopher R. et al. 2014. "Placing Racial Stereotypes in Context: Social Desirability and the Politics of Racial Hostility." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 63-78.

Suggested/Graduate students readings:

- ◇ Hutchings, Vincent L., and Nicholas A. Valentino. 2004. "The Centrality of Race in American Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 383-408.
- ◇ Sen, Maya, and Omar Wasow. 2016. "Race as a Bundle of Sticks: Designs that Estimate Effects of Seemingly Immutable Characteristics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19: 499-522.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar*

[\(http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/\)](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/)

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.