

**POL 608**  
**Foundations, Political Psychology**  
**Fall 2020**

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Tuesday, 9:45-12:45, N702  
Office hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:30,  
and by appointment

**Course Description:** POL608 provides a broad introduction to the field of political psychology. It is designed to prepare you for further study in this area. We will survey many of the major areas of research in political psychology with readings drawn from both political science and psychology.

**Course Objectives:** The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the major areas of political psychology. We will discuss both theoretical perspectives in political psychology and a number of political phenomena that have been studied through this lens. You will learn how to synthesize and critically analyze research in the field. In the class meetings you will gain experience discussing theory and research in political psychology and learn how to carefully read and evaluate research papers.

**Assignments and Grading:** Course grades will be based on three components: (1) written papers (60%); (2) the quality of your participation in weekly seminars (30%); and (3) your class presentation of an empirical paper on a week's reading list (10%).

*Participation:* The quality of the seminar discussion depends in large part on the effort that you put toward class. Your participation grade will be based on the quality of your contribution throughout the entire semester. This means that you need to read the assigned readings closely and give yourself enough time to reflect on the material. You should come to each class meeting with thoughts about issues raised in the readings that you found interesting and/or concerns that you had about the work.

*Discussion of a Reading:* Each student will choose one of the required readings (from those flagged with an \*) and give a 15-minute (maximum) presentation of that paper in class. Your summary should include a brief description of the author's theory and hypotheses. You should then discuss how the author tested his or her theory and describe whether or not the empirical results support the argument. You should finish your presentation with 2 or 3 questions to begin class discussion of that paper. You should prepare a set of slides (PowerPoint or pdf) that you'll use for your class presentation and that you will send me before the class starts.

*Written Papers:* You will need to write four short papers (approximately 6 pages in length). A week before each class meeting (beginning with the September 8 class) I will post a paper question on Blackboard. You can choose to write papers any four of those weeks. In these papers, you should reflect critically on the readings for that week incorporating, to the extent that you think it's helpful, previous weeks' readings. You should *not* simply summarize the readings. Assume that I have read all of the papers so you can move directly into a thoughtful discussion of the issues raised in the question I give you. You can focus your paper on a sub-set of the readings for that week or address the larger theoretical and/or conceptual issues raised in those readings.

**Required Readings:** Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack Levy, eds. 2013. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, Second Edition. Oxford UK: Oxford University Press.

All of the other readings should be available online. You have access to most social science journals through the Stony Brook library website (from on or off campus). You should also get familiar with Google Scholar (scholar.google.com). If you go into settings for Google Scholar and click on Library links you will be able to set the Stony Brook University library to provide access to journal articles. It will then show you the FullText@StonyBrook link for journal articles you have access to through the library. Many articles can also be downloaded from other websites through Google Scholar.

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: Everyone participating in this class must wear a mask/face covering at all times. Any student not in compliance with this will be asked to leave the class.**

**Student Accessibility Support Services (SASC):** If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631)632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/sasc/facstaff/syllabus.php>

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities>

**Academic Integrity:** Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html)

**Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

## Course Schedule and Readings

### August 25: Introduction to the Course and Overviews of the Field

Leonie Huddy, Sears, David, and Jack Levy. 2013. "Introduction: Theoretical foundations of political psychology." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

McGraw, Kathleen. 2000. "Contributions of the cognitive approach to political psychology." *Political Psychology* 21 (4): 805-831.

Chong, Dennis. 2013. "Degrees of rationality in politics." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

### September 1: The Nature of Political Attitudes

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The nature of belief systems in mass publics." Reprinted in *Critical Review* 18, no. 1-3 (2006): 1-74.

Achen, Christopher H. 1975. "Mass political attitudes and the survey response." *The American Political Science Review* 69, no. 4: 1218-1231.

Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A simple theory of the survey response: Answering questions versus revealing preferences." *American Journal of Political Science*: 579-616.

Freeder, Sean, Gabriel S. Lenz, and Shad Turney. 2019. "The importance of knowing "what goes with what": Reinterpreting the evidence on policy attitude stability." *The Journal of Politics* 81, no. 1: 274-290.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Jonathan Rodden, and James M. Snyder Jr. 2008. "The strength of issues: Using multiple measures to gauge preference stability, ideological constraint, and issue voting." *American Political Science Review*: 215-232.

### September 8: Knowledge and Political Sophistication

Althaus, Scott L. 1988. "Information effects in collective preferences." *American Political Science Review*: 545-558.

Gilens, Martin. 2001. "Political ignorance and collective policy preferences." *American Political Science Review*: 379-396.

Barabas, Jason, Jennifer Jerit, William Pollock, and Carlisle Rainey. 2014. "The question (s) of political knowledge." *American Political Science Review*: 840-855.

Kuklinski, James H., Paul J. Quirk, Jennifer Jerit, David Schwieder, and Robert F. Rich. 2000. "Misinformation and the currency of democratic citizenship." *Journal of Politics* 62, no. 3: 790-816.

Jerit, Jennifer, and Jason Barabas. 2012. "Partisan perceptual bias and the information environment." *The Journal of Politics* 74, no. 3: 672-684.

\* Bullock, John G., Alan S. Gerber, Seth J. Hill, and Gregory A. Huber. 2015. "Partisan Bias in Factual Beliefs about Politics." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 10: 519-578.

### **September 15: Ideology, Values, and Belief Systems**

Feldman, Stanley. 2013. "Political Ideology." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Gerring, John. 1997. "Ideology: A definitional analysis." *Political Research Quarterly* 50, no. 4: 957-994.

Schwartz, Shalom H. 1994. "Are there universal aspects in the structure and contents of human values?" *Journal of social issues* 50, no. 4: 19-45.

Schwartz, Shalom H., Gian Vittorio Caprara, and Michele Vecchione. 2010. "Basic personal values, core political values, and voting: A longitudinal analysis." *Political Psychology* 31, no. 3: 421-452.

\* Jacoby, William G. 2006. "Value choices and American public opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 50, no. 3: 706-723.

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, no. 5 (2009): 1029-1046.

### **September 22: Political Cognition**

Taber, Charles, and Everett Young. 2013. "Political Information Processing." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Redlawsk, David, and Richard Lau. 2013. "Behavioral decision-making." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

\* 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, no. 2: 309-326.

Chaiken, Shelly, and Alison Ledgerwood. 2011. "A theory of heuristic and systematic information processing." In Paul Van Lange, Arie Kruglanski, and E. Tory Higgins, eds. *Handbook of Theories of Social Psychology: Volume One* (2011): 246-266.

Rudolph, Thomas J., and Elizabeth Popp. 2007. "An information processing theory of ambivalence." *Political psychology* 28, no. 5: 563-585.

Greenwald, Anthony G., and Mahzarin R. Banaji. 1995. "Implicit social cognition: attitudes, self-esteem, and stereotypes." *Psychological review* 102, no. 1: 4-27.

## **September 29: Motivated Reasoning and Selective Exposure**

Kunda, Ziva. 1990. "The case for motivated reasoning." *Psychological Bulletin* 108, no. 3: 480-498.

Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated skepticism in the evaluation of political beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50, no. 3: 755-769.

Redlawsk, David P., Andrew JW Civettini, and Karen M. Emmerson. 2010. "The affective tipping point: Do motivated reasoners ever "get it"?" *Political Psychology* 31, no. 4: 563-593.

Arceneaux, Kevin, and Ryan J. Vander Wielen. 2013. "The effects of need for cognition and need for affect on partisan evaluations." *Political Psychology* 34, no. 1: 23-42.

Lau, Richard R., David J. Andersen, Tessa M. Ditonto, Mona S. Kleinberg, and David P. Redlawsk. 2017. "Effect of media environment diversity and advertising tone on information search, selective exposure, and affective polarization." *Political Behavior* 39, no. 1: 231-255.

\* Arceneaux, Kevin, Martin Johnson, and Chad Murphy. 2012. "Polarized political communication, oppositional media hostility, and selective exposure." *The Journal of Politics* 74, no. 1: 174-186.

## **October 6: Emotions and Politics**

Brader, Ted, and George Marcus. 2013. "Emotion and political psychology." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Janice Gross Stein. 2013. "Threat perception in international relations." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

\* Brader, Ted. 2005. "Striking a responsive chord: How political ads motivate and persuade voters by appealing to emotions." *American Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 2: 388-405.

Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, and Erin Cassese. 2007. "On the distinct political effects of anxiety and anger." In George Marcus, Russel Neuman, Michael MacKuen, and Ann Crigler, eds. *The affect effect: Dynamics of emotion in political thinking and behavior*: 202-230.

Petersen, Michael Bang. 2010. "Distinct emotions, distinct domains: Anger, anxiety and perceptions of intentionality." *The Journal of Politics* 72, no. 2: 357-365.

Clifford, Scott, and Jennifer Jerit. 2018. "Disgust, anxiety, and political learning in the face of threat." *American Journal of Political Science* 62, no. 2: 266-279.

### **October 13: Learning about Politics: Political Socialization**

Sears, David, and Christina Brown. 2013. "Childhood and Adult Political Development." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Sapiro, Virginia. 2004. "Not Your Parents' Political Socialization: Introduction for a New Generation." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 7: 1-23.

\* Healy, Andrew, and Neil Malhotra. 2013. "Childhood socialization and political attitudes: Evidence from a natural experiment." *The Journal of Politics* 75, no. 4: 1023-1037.

Holbein, John B., D. Sunshine Hillygus, Matthew A. Lenard, Christina Gibson-Davis, and Darryl V. Hill. 2016. "The Development of Students' Engagement in School, Community and Democracy." *British Journal of Political Science*: 1-19.

Highton, Benjamin. (2009). "Revisiting the relationship between educational attainment and political sophistication." *The Journal of Politics*, 71(04), 1564-1576.

Grasso, Maria Teresa, Stephen Farrall, Emily Gray, Colin Hay, and Will Jennings. 2019. "Thatcher's children, Blair's babies, political socialization and trickle-down value change: An age, period and cohort analysis." *British Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 1: 17-36.

### **October 20: Political Communication, Social Influence, and the Mass Media**

Valentino, Nicholas and Yioryos Nardis. 2013. "Political Communication: Form and Consequence of the Information Environment." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Huckfeldt, Robert, Jeffrey Mondak, Matthew Hayes, Matthew Pietryka, and Jack Reilly. 2013. "Networks, interdependence, and social influence in politics." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Chong, Dennis, and James N. Druckman. 2007. "Framing theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 103-126.

Chong, Dennis, and James N. Druckman. 2010. "Dynamic public opinion: Communication effects over time." *American Political Science Review*: 663-680.

Bullock, John G. 2011. "Elite influence on public opinion in an informed electorate." *American Political Science Review*: 496-515.

\* Mutz, Diana C., and Byron Reeves. 2005. "The new videomalaise: Effects of televised incivility on political trust." *American Political Science Review*: 1-15.

### **October 27: Social Groups and Social Identity**

Huddy, Leonie. 2013. "From group identity to political cohesion and commitment." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Green, Eva, and Christian Staerke. 2013. "Migration and Multiculturalism." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Huddy, Leonie, and Nadia Khatib. 2007. "American patriotism, national identity, and political involvement." *American Journal of Political Science* 51, no. 1: 63-77.

Huddy, Leonie, Lilliana Mason, and Lene Aarøe. 2015. "Expressive partisanship: Campaign involvement, political emotion, and partisan identity." *American Political Science Review* 109, no. 1: 1-17.

\* Cohen, Geoffrey L. 2003. "Party over policy: The dominating impact of group influence on political beliefs." *Journal of personality and social psychology* 85, no. 5: 808-822.

White, Ismail K., Chryl N. Laird, and Troy D. Allen. 2014. "Selling Out?: The politics of navigating conflicts between racial group interest and self-interest." *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 4: 783-800.

### **November 3: Authoritarianism and Social Dominance Orientation**

Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Enforcing social conformity: A theory of authoritarianism." *Political Psychology* 24, no. 1: 41-74.

Kteily, Nour S., Jim Sidanius, and Shana Levin. 2011. "Social dominance orientation: Cause or 'mere effect'? Evidence for SDO as a causal predictor of prejudice and discrimination against ethnic and racial outgroups." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 47, no. 1: 208-214.

Duckitt, John, Claire Wagner, Ilouize Du Plessis, and Ingrid Birum. 2002. "The psychological bases of ideology and prejudice: Testing a dual process model." *Journal of personality and social psychology* 83, no. 1: 75-93.

Duckitt, John, and Chris G. Sibley. 2010. "Right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation differentially moderate intergroup effects on prejudice." *European Journal of Personality* 24, no. 7: 583-601.

Cizmar, Anne M., Geoffrey C. Layman, John McTague, Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, and Michael Spivey. 2014. "Authoritarianism and American political behavior from 1952 to 2008." *Political Research Quarterly* 67, no. 1: 71-83.

\* Craig, Maureen A., and Jennifer A. Richeson. 2014. "Not in my backyard! Authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, and support for strict immigration policies at home and abroad." *Political Psychology* 35, no. 3: 417-429.

## **November 10: Personality and Biopolitics**

Funk, Carolyn. 2013. "Genetic foundations of political behavior." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Sidanius, Jim, and Robert Kurzban. 2013. "Toward and evolutionarily informed political psychology." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Hatemi, Peter K., Sarah E. Medland, Robert Klemmensen, Sven Oskarsson, Levente Littvay, Christopher T. Dawes, Brad Verhulst et al. 2014. "Genetic influences on political ideologies: Twin analyses of 19 measures of political ideologies from five democracies and genome-wide findings from three populations." *Behavior genetics* 44, no. 3: 282-294.

\* Cesarini, David, Magnus Johannesson, and Sven Oskarsson. 2014. "Pre-birth factors, post-birth factors, and voting: Evidence from Swedish adoption data." *American Political Science Review*: 71-87.

Mondak, Jeffery J., Matthew V. Hibbing, Damarys Canache, Mitchell A. Seligson, and Mary R. Anderson. 2010. "Personality and civic engagement: An integrative framework for the study of trait effects on political behavior." *American Political Science Review*: 85-110.

Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Shang E. Ha. 2010. "Personality and political attitudes: Relationships across issue domains and political contexts." *American Political Science Review*: 111-133.

Nam, H. Hannah, John T. Jost, Lisa Kaggen, Daniel Campbell-Meiklejohn, and Jay J. Van Bavel. 2018. "Amygdala structure and the tendency to regard the social system as legitimate and desirable." *Nature Human Behaviour* 2, no. 2: 133-138.

## **November 17: Prejudice**

Kinder, Donald. 2013. "Prejudice and politics." In Huddy, Sears, and Levy, *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.

Rabinowitz, Joshua L., David O. Sears, Jim Sidanius, and Jon A. Krosnick. 2009. "Why Do White Americans oppose race-targeted policies? Clarifying the impact of symbolic racism." *Political Psychology* 30, no. 5: 805-828.

Feldman, Stanley, and Leonie Huddy. 2005. "Racial resentment and white opposition to race-conscious programs: Principles or prejudice?" *American Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 1: 168-183.

Devine, Patricia G. 1989. "Stereotypes and prejudice: Their automatic and controlled components." *Journal of personality and social psychology* 56, no. 1: 5-18.

Tessler, Michael. 2012. "The return of old fashioned racism to white Americans partisan preferences in the early Obama era." *The Journal of Politics* 75, no. 1: 110-123.

\* Krupnikov, Yanna, and Spencer Piston. 2015. "Racial prejudice, partisanship, and White turnout in elections with Black candidates." *Political Behavior* 37, no. 2: 397-418.



## **December 1: Tolerance and Democratic Norms**

Davis, Darren W., and Brian D. Silver. 2004. "Civil liberties vs. security: Public opinion in the context of the terrorist attacks on America." *American journal of political science* 48, no. 1: 28-46.

Golebiowska, Ewa A. 1995. "Individual value priorities, education, and political tolerance." *Political Behavior* 17, no. 1: 23-48.

Halperin, Eran, Daphna Canetti-Nisim, and Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler. 2009. "The central role of group-based hatred as an emotional antecedent of political intolerance: Evidence from Israel." *Political Psychology* 30, no. 1: 93-123.

Arceneaux, Kevin. 2019. "The roots of intolerance and opposition to compromise: The effects of absolutism on political attitudes." *Personality and Individual Differences* 151: 1-12.

Crawford, Jarret T. 2014. "Ideological symmetries and asymmetries in political intolerance and prejudice toward political activist groups." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 55: 284-298.

\* Dunn, Kris. 2014. "Authoritarianism and Intolerance Under Autocratic and Democratic Regimes." *Journal of Social and Political Psychology* 2, no. 1: 220-241.