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2018

Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for PSY 3103/POL 3101 (Political Psychology)

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CUNY Bernard M Baruch College

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Fall 2018

Political Psychology PTRA - PSY 3101 cross listed as POL 3101 T/TH 5:50 PM-7:05 PM

Baruch College

Instructor: Nicholas Juszczak (Prof J)

e-mail:

Office phone:

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3 PM- 3:45 Please! Advance appointment only! I am always available, however by email and you can connect with me through SKYPE. Advance scheduling for SKYPE sessions please!

This course is an exploration of political behavior from a psychological perspective, with special attention devoted to selected topics. What is Political behavior and what shapes it? Is it the situation in which we find ourselves, or our internal psychological makeup such as our beliefs and values? Perhaps neurology and physiology contribute as well? We will explore political psychology from within this situational-dispositional framework. Thus, we will look at behaviorism, obedience, personality, groupthink, cognition, affect, emotions and neuroscience as they relate to topics such as voting behavior, racism, terrorism and more! Some questions to ponder...

1. Why would someone knowingly join a hate group such as the KKK?
2. Could the space shuttle disasters have been averted?
3. Why did Hutus begin feverishly murdering their Tutsi neighbors in Rwanda?
4. Why did the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 happen?
5. Is Donald Trump mentally ill?
6. Why is propaganda so effective?
7. Is social media exacerbating the effects of propaganda?
8. Is my political orientation predicted by my personality traits?

This course does not require a political psychology textbook, and is completely based on open educational resources, that is, all of the assigned video lectures, notes, news media sources (print or online), articles, assigned open resource text material are **free**.



<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

During the course of the semester there will be required reading assignments drawn from the open source (free!) textbooks listed below. At your earliest conveniences click on the links to access the material. You may view online order a print version or download PDF versions (recommended) of the entire text!

Social Psychology Open Source Text

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=393>

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Social_Psychology

Cognitive Psychology Open Source Text

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cognitive_Psychology_and_Cognitive_Neuroscience

Learning goals:

An understanding of the psychological processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior.

An ability to employ critical thinking and demonstrate social scientific literacy.

A capacity to utilize contemporary social science research methods and to comprehend rigorous research on political phenomena.

Course Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, you will:

1. Demonstrate a general understanding of some of the basic concepts in political psychology research as well as the various psychological theories that arise from this research.
2. Demonstrate thoughtful consumption of political psychology research, and assess both strengths and weaknesses.

Course Objectives:

1. To become more knowledgeable about the field of political psychology - its definition, its various domains of study, and its methodologies.
2. To examine the impact of personality on political behavior.
3. To become familiar with the role of social cognition, social influences, and social relations factors in political behavior.
4. To become familiar with the various psychological mechanisms impacting political attitudes.
5. To explore the political psychology of race and ethnicity.
7. To examine the impact of political psychology as it related to broader International concerns such as nationalism, political extremism, and war.

Below are the concepts and topics that we will discuss in class. Included are the text and video link assignments.

1. A Brief History of the Discipline

Lecture notes

2. Behaviorism

Lecture notes

Classical Conditioning and Operant Conditioning Explained:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTVQHhbhYbA>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6LEcM0E0io&t=1s>

Conditioning in Political Advertising

Republican Ad from 2015 demonstrating associative learning concepts...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC4SZ91sqe8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VriAj0aLTdU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDTBnsqxZ3k>

3. The Psychology of Social Influence: Obedience

Lecture Notes

Social Psychology assigned reading

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=393>

Solomon Asch and Social Conformity Concepts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1IDhA&list=PLcCLbfa7mNGHiwt1zzrRNtWCKi-lIIWf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG6H_8BU-f4

4. Social Influence Milgram and Zimbardo

Lecture notes

Social Psychology assigned reading

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=393>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jc_e9M8M-RU (The Lucifer Effect)

5. Group Decision-Making - Group Think

Lecture notes on Janus Group Think

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sOj6Us6JEQ> (The Challenger Disaster)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ds3-ljxTRvo> (Conformity and Group Think)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWoH2J8sLP8> (Group Think, Definitions, Causes and Prevention)

6. Personality and Beliefs

Lecture Notes: Personality and Political Orientation: Liberal or Conservative?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EyRh3iXqNw&t=0> (Chris Mooney)

7. Who Am I, What am I Politically?

Lecture Notes

The Big Five Personality Scales, Social Dominance, Right Wing Authoritarianism, Need for Closure (links to the various measuring instruments will be provided in class)

8. Cognitive Theories

Lecture Notes: Availability and Representative Heuristics

Cognitive Psychology

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cognitive_Psychology_and_Cognitive_Neuroscience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgICLUbalM0> (Availability and Representative Heuristics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUaXAeVQnqE> (Heuristics, Errors and Biases)

9. Affect and Emotion and Propaganda

Lecture Notes

Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cognitive_Psychology_and_Cognitive_Neuroscience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfo5gPG72KM&t=1s> (Propaganda)

9. Neuroscience

Lecture Notes and powerpoint presentations

Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cognitive_Psychology_and_Cognitive_Neuroscience

10. The Psychology of Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Genocide

Lecture Notes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7cZuhqSzzc&t=0> (Genocide Worse than War)

11. The Psychology of Racism and Political Intolerance

Lecture Notes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qmyUKsUoow (The Science of Racism)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxjL6GSfIL0> (The Scientific Racism...)

12. The Psychology of Terrorism

Lecture Notes (Horgans Theory)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UJ-r6xRUuo> (Cyber Jihad)

Grading:

There will be an in-class essay midterm and final exam based on assigned reading, assignments, class lectures, and class discussions. Political situations are fluid, especially in the context of the present political climate! Thus, over the course of the term additional reading and films supplementing many of the concepts will be introduced. Many of these resources will come from contemporary academicians, reputable newspaper and other reputable media sources (and I do mean REPUTABLE!)

Below is the grading criteria:

Letter Grades and Grade Point Equivalent		
A	4.0	93.0–100.0

A-	3.7	90.0–92.9
B+	3.3	87.1–89.9
B	3.0	83.0–87.0
B-	2.7	80.0–82.9
C+	2.3	77.1–79.9
C	2.0	73.0–77.0
C-	1.7	70.0–72.9
D+	1.3	67.1–69.9
D	1.0	60.0–67.0
F	0.0	below 60.0

Academic Integrity

The Department of Psychology fully supports Baruch College's policy on Academic Honesty, which states, in part:

"Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college's educational mission and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Baruch students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned. Academic sanctions in this class will range from an F on an assignment/exam to an F in this course. A report of suspected academic dishonesty will be sent to

the Office of the Dean of Students. Additional information and definitions can be found at:
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html

Special Needs/Students Accommodations

Accommodations - It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodations in college.

Student's Instructor - It is the responsibility of the student to inform their instructors of their accommodations by sharing the accommodation letter that has been provided to the student by this office.

Exams – Please pick up an Exam Proctor Request Form in our office. Ask the Professor to complete the Form. Student should return the completed Form to this office at least five days prior to the exam. If you are an evening student, please discuss beforehand an alternate time to take the exam in this office.

Assistive Technology – Meet with our Accommodation Specialist to discuss various devices that you can use throughout the semester at no charge.

Requests for Sign Language Interpreters, Laboratory assistants, or Auxiliary classroom aids should be made well in advance of the beginning of each semester to ensure we have time to make the necessary arrangements.

Additional information can be obtained at the below link:

http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/ossd/disabilityServices_RRstudents.htm

The Science of Political Psychology – getting the most out of this course and an opportunity to boost your grade.

Political Psychology, as scientific sub-discipline of psychology involves collecting and collating information utilizing scientific methods. Thus the importance of science in Political Psychology cannot be overemphasized! Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to participate in 2 hours of psychology research here at Baruch College. Students can participate in research study via SONA Systems (similar to what was required in Introduction to Psychology). Again, more details about this research participation requirement will be presented to you soon.

This participation is voluntary and your decision not to participate will not affect your grade, however, students who verifiably complete this assignment will receive a grade boost of a full step. For example, if the final grade is B and you verifiably complete the assignment (either the participation or comparable assignment), your grade will boost to B+.

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