

Introduction to Political Psychology: Syllabus

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1 Course Description

At the heart of many political phenomena lie psychological motivations and mechanisms. The formation and change in political attitudes, effects of political communication, and electoral behavior are only some of the areas in which we depend on understanding underlying psychological processes. During this course, students will be introduced to central concepts and measurement approaches in political psychology. Topics discussed include political ideology, political dimensions of race, gender, partisanship, personality traits, and religion. Also, students will be introduced to foundations of social science research practice in the context of topics discussed during the course.

Level: Students are expected to develop theory-driven research questions and develop appropriate operationalization. In selected cases they can also perform data analyses focusing on their research questions.

Learning Objectives: The introductory seminars I (summer semester) will address the following competencies:

- Researching literature,
- managing literature (e.g. Endnote, RefWorks or Citavi),
- analysing literature (i.a. creating citations),
- critical reading and interpreting scientific texts,
- preparing to compose scientific texts (outline etc.),

- correct citing of texts / preventing plagiarism,
- creating presentations (short class presentations no longer than 15 minutes).

Students will develop an awareness of the importance of adhering to scientific norms and standards (which includes the justification of the need for strict sanctioning of academic misconduct)

Besides the short presentation, students are expected to complete the following academic performance assessments for the introductory seminar I.:

- Text summary (“response paper”) comprising approx. 500 words,
- final paper: a written summary of the state of research on a select topic discussed during the seminar (approx. 3,000 words).

Vst.-Nr. POL-21880: Proseminar

2 Requirements

2.1 Regular and active participation

The course features the discussion of the required readings. To benefit from this, students are expected to read the texts listed as required readings before each session and actively participate in the discussion for each session. The texts under required readings offer brief surveys over topical areas in Political Psychology. In preparing the texts for each session, please use the following guiding questions:

1. Which research questions have been proposed by authors in this topical area?
2. What are the concepts and proposed mechanisms in this area?
3. Identify (dis)agreements between authors in this area?
4. What are the methods and operationalizations predominantly used in this area?
5. What do you feel is missing from the field? What choices by researchers in the field seem surprising to you?

You may find it useful to keep notes on the papers read by you.

2.2 Presentation

Students will be asked to present a research paper during one of the topical session. During the first session, each student will be assigned a text from the listed readings for presentations. In preparing the presentations please use the following guiding questions:

1. What is the research question?
2. What are the concepts used in the study?
3. What are the mechanisms proposed in the study?

4. What are the hypotheses? How are they linked with concepts and mechanisms under study?
5. What empirical approach do the authors take? What is the data in use? How are the data analyzed? Does this seem appropriate?
6. What are the results and how are they connected with concepts and mechanisms under study?
7. How does the study related to the topics discussed in the required readings for the respective session?
8. How convincing do you find the arguments presented by the authors?

Beyond these guiding questions, please keep the following considerations in mind in preparing your presentation:

- Please plan your presentation to take between 10-15 minutes;
- Please prepare a slide deck with a presentation program of your choice (except for Prezi);
- In preparing the presentation please follow the guidelines discussed in the first session;
- Please prepare a handout of one to two pages for your fellow students, summarizing the main points of your presentation;
- Upload the handout on the day your presentation is due to the assignment folder on the course's Ilias repository. Use the following template for the filename "your_last_name-handout...";
- The presentation will be graded and contribute 20% to your final grade.

2.3 Scientific Practice: Assignments

2.3.1 Assignment 1: Reading

- For week 2, please read and prepare notes on Huddy, Sears, and Levy (2013);
- Use the questions listed in section 2.1 as guiding structure and aim for one to two pages;
- Upload your notes to the assignment folder on the course's Ilias repository. Use the following template for the filename "your_last_name-assignment1..." and bring them to class;
- Deadline: April 25;
- The assignment will not be graded but its submission is mandatory for the passing of the course.

2.3.2 Assignment 2: Writing

- For week 9, please prepare a paragraph of ca. 400 words stating a research question, motivation, proposed causal mechanism, and a preliminary research design;
- For structure orient yourself on the abstracts of empirical papers read in the course (especially the readings for presentations);
- Upload your paragraph to the assignment folder on the course's Ilias repository. Use the following template for the filename "your_last_name-assignment2..." and bring a printout to class;
- In class, you will hand your paragraph to a classmate who will critique it;
- Deadline: June 13;
- The assignment will not be graded but its submission is mandatory for the passing of the course.

2.4 Response Paper

Students will be asked to prepare a short response paper on one of the topical issues discussed. Aim of the response paper is the preparation of a brief overview of topically relevant literature potentially including the explicit identification of a research gap or unresolved conflict in the literature.

- Style requirements: Font—Times New Roman, 12pt; Line-separation—1.5; Page borders—2.5 cm left and right, 2cm above and below; Page set—Block; The first line of each paragraph is indented;
- Citation Style: Please follow the citation convention of the American Political Science Review (APSR) available at <http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016>;
- Cover page: University, department, course title, paper title, name, MatrikNr., semester count, study program, and e-mail-address;
- Length: ca. 500 words +/-10%;
- Deadline: 22. June;
- Upload the response paper to the assignment folder on the course's Ilias repository. Use the following template for the filename "your_last_name-response...";
- The response paper will not be graded but its submission is mandatory for the passing of the course.

2.5 Term Paper

Following the course, students will be asked to hand in a term paper. The aim of this paper is for you to independently develop and present the current state of research on one of the topics discussed during the course. This can take either of two formats:

1. Systematic literature review on aspects related to the topics discussed during the course;
2. Identification of a current research gap in the literature and proposal of a research design addressing this gap.

If you choose to perform a literature review, make sure to use the following guiding questions to assess the plausibility of causal claims:¹

1. Is there a plausible mechanism for the effect?
2. Does evidence come from peer-reviewed sources?
3. Are all relevant studies considered?
4. Are results of specific studies misrepresented?
5. Are causal claims based on experiment, correlation or analogy?
6. Is technical, scientific terminology used to obfuscate rather than clarify?

For the term paper, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Style requirements: Font—Times New Roman, 12pt; Line-separation—1.5; Page borders—2.5 cm left and right, 2cm above and below; Page set—Block; The first line of each paragraph is indented;
- Citation Style: Please follow the citation convention of the American Political Science Review (APSR) available at <http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016>;
- Cover page: University, department, course title, paper title, name, Matriknr., semester count, study program, and e-mail-address;
- Length: ca. 3000 words +/-10%
- Deadline: Please return the paper on the date specified by the department (BA: 15. September; MA: 15. September) electronically at andreas.jungherr@gmail.com and by hardcopy with Karin Becker (Room D 312). The date is mandatory and can only be extended in case of officially certified illness;
- Use the following template for the filename "your_last_name-paper...".
- The term paper will be graded and contribute 80% to your final grade.

¹Questions slightly shorted from David Robert Grimes and Dorothy V. M. Bishop. 2018. "Distinguishing Polemic From Commentary in Science: Some Guidelines Illustrated With the Case of Sage and Burgio (2017)". *Child Development* 89 (1): 141–147. doi:10.1111/cdev.13013

3 Course Outline

Class will meet at the following times and locations:

Thursday 10:00-11:30 (C421)

- 3.1 Week 1: Introduction & Scientific Practice—How to Hold a Scientific Presentation? (April 19)
 - 3.2 Week 2: Scientific Practice—How to Work with Scientific Texts? (April 26)
 - 3.3 Week 3: Attitudes (May 3)
 - 3.4 Week 4: Christi Himmelfahrt (May 10)—no meeting
 - 3.5 Week 5: Scientific Practice—Library, Guided Tour (May 17)
 - 3.6 Week 6: Ideology (May 24)
 - 3.7 Week 7: Gender (May 31)
 - 3.8 Week 8: Partisanship (June 7)
 - 3.9 Week 9: Scientific Practice—Writing Scientific Texts (June 14)
 - 3.10 Week 10: Guest Lecture (June 21)
 - 3.11 Week 11: Personality (June 28)
 - 3.12 Week 12: Information Processing (July 5)
 - 3.13 Week 13: Emotions (July 12)
 - 3.14 Week 14: Discussion of Open Questions and Term Paper (July 19)
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3.1 Week 1: Introduction & Scientific Practice—How to Hold a Scientific Presentation? (April 19)

In this session, we will cover the basics of how to create and hold a scientific presentation:

- Creating and hold scientific presentations (short class presentations no longer than 15 minutes).

Required Reading:

– Chapter 15: Speaking in John Gerring and Dino Christenson. 2017. *Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Background Readings:

– Jonathan Schwabish. 2017. *Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

3.2 Week 2: Scientific Practice—How to Work with Scientific Texts? (April 26)

Remember: Assignment 1 due on April 25!

In this session, we will cover the basics of how to identify, read, and work with scientific texts. Topics covered are:

- Researching literature;
- Critical reading and interpreting scientific texts;
- Identifying concepts and proposed causal mechanisms;
- Analyzing the state of literature (i.e. identifying consensus and research gaps);
- Establishing a systematic literature review;
- Managing literature (e.g. BibTeX, Citavi, Endnote, or RefWorks).

Required Reading:

– Chapter 11: Reading and Reviewing in John Gerring and Dino Christenson. 2017. *Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

– Chapter 1: Who Cares? In Christopher Howard. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

– Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy. 2013. “Introduction: Theoretical Foundations of Political Psychology”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 1–22. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0001.

– Penn Libraries. 2018. *Citation Management Tools: Overview*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania. <http://guides.library.upenn.edu/c.php?g=475845&p=3255041>.

3.3 Week 3: Attitudes (May 3)

Required Reading:

– Alice H. Eagly and Shelly Chaiken. 1998. “Attitude Structure and Function”. In *Handbook of Social Psychology*, 4th ed., ed. by Daniel T. Gilbert, Susan T. Fiske, and Gardner Lindzey, 269–322. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Background Readings:

– Dolores Albarracin and Sharon Shavitt. 2018. “Attitudes and Attitude Change”. *Annual Review of Psychology* 69:299–327. doi:10.1146/annurev-psych-122216-011911.

– Mahzarin R. Banaji and Larisa Heiphetz. 2010. “Attitudes”. In *Handbook of Social Psychology*, 5th ed., ed. by Susan T. Fiske, Daniel T. Gilbert, and Gardner Lindzey, 353–393. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. doi:10.1002/9780470561119.socpsy001010.

– Alice H. Eagly and Shelly Chaiken. 1993. *The psychology of attitudes*. Belmont, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.

Presentations:

– Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick. 2012. “Selective Exposure and Reinforcement of Attitudes and Partisanship Before a Presidential Election”. *Journal of Communication* 62 (4): 628–642. doi:10.1111/j.1460-2466.2012.01651.x.

– Jon A. Krosnick. 1988. “The role of attitude importance in social evaluation: A study of policy preferences, presidential candidate evaluations, and voting behavior”. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 55 (2): 196–210. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.55.2.196.

3.4 Week 4: Christi Himmelfahrt (May 10)—no meeting

This is an official holiday, so no course meeting on this day.

3.5 Week 5: Scientific Practice—Library, Guided Tour (May 17)

This week, you will have a guided tour of the university library. Judith Heeg will guide you and introduce on how navigate the library and use the online catalogue. Participation is mandatory!

The session will be held between 17.00 and 18.30. Meeting place is room J213 at 17.00.

3.6 Week 6: Ideology (May 24)

Required Reading:

– Christopher M. Federico. 2016. “The Structure, Foundations, and Expression of Ideology”. In *New Directions in Public Opinion*, 2nd ed., ed. by Adam J. Berinsky, 81–103. New York, NY: Routledge.

Background Readings:

- Philip Converse. 1964. “The nature of belief systems in mass publics”. In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. by David E. Apter, 206–261. New York, NY: Free Press.
- Stanley Feldman. 2013. “Political Ideology”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 591–626. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0019.
- John R. Zaller. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Presentations:

- Christopher M. Federico and Corrie V. Hunt. 2013. “Political Information, Political Involvement, and Reliance on Ideology in Political Evaluation”. *Political Behavior* 35 (1): 89–112. doi:10.1007/s11109-011-9184-7.
- Anja Neundorf. 2011. “Die Links-Rechts-Dimension auf dem Prüfstand: Ideologische Einstellungen und Wahlverhalten im vereinten Deutschland 1990 bis 2008”. In *Wählen in Deutschland (PVS Sonderheft 45/2011)*, ed. by Rüdiger Schmitt-Beck, 234–257. Baden-Baden: Nomos. doi:10.5771/9783845262178_234.

3.7 Week 7: Gender (May 31)

Required Reading:

- Nancy Burns and Katherine Gallagher. 2010. “Public Opinion on Gender Issues: The Politics of Equity and Roles”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 13:425–443. doi:10.1146/annurev.polisci.12.040507.142213.

Presentations:

- Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Suzanna De Boef, and Tse-Min Lin. 2004. “The Dynamics of the Partisan Gender Gap”. *American Political Science Review* 98 (3): 515–528. doi:10.1017/S0003055404001315.
- Christopher F. Karpowitz, J. Quin Monson, and Jessica Robinson Preece. 2017. “How to Elect More Women: Gender and Candidate Success in a Field Experiment”. *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (4): 927–943. doi:10.1111/ajps.12300.

3.8 Week 8: Partisanship (June 7)

Required Reading:

- Marc Hetherington. 2016. “Partisanship and Polarization in Contemporary Politics”. In *New Directions in Public Opinion*, 2nd ed., ed. by Adam J. Berinsky, 146–164. New York, NY: Routledge.

Background Readings:

- Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- Morris P. Fiorina. 2017. *Unstable Majorities: Polarization, Party Sorting, and Political Stalemate*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press.
- Donald Green, Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Leonie Huddy. 2013. “From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 737–773. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0023.
- Lilliana Mason. 2018. *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Champaign, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Presentations:

- Leonie Huddy, Lilliana Mason, and Lene Aarøe. 2015. “Expressive Partisanship: Campaign Involvement, Political Emotion, and Partisan Identity”. *American Political Science Review* 109 (1): 1–17. doi:10.1017/S0003055414000604.
- Lilliana Mason and Julie Wronski. 2018. “One Tribe to Bind Them All: How Our Social Group Attachments Strengthen Partisanship”. *Advances in Political Psychology* 39 (Suppl, 1): 257–277. doi:10.1111/pops.12485.

3.9 Week 9: Scientific Practice—Writing Scientific Texts (June 14)

Remember: Assignment 2 due on June 13!

In this session, we will cover the basics of how to prepare for the writing of scientific texts:

- Finding a research question;
- Drafting an outline;
- Writing as practice;
- Correct citation practices and preventing plagiarism.

Required Reading:

- Chapter 14: Writing in John Gerring and Dino Christenson. 2017. *Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Background Readings:

- Lisa A. Baglione. 2016. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Howard S. Becker. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You’re Doing It*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- Howard S. Becker. 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your*

- Thesis, Book, or Article*. 2nd ed. Champaign, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Wendy Laura Belcher. 2009. *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.
 - Paul J. Silvia. 2007. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
 - Francis-Noël Thomas and Mark Turner. 2011. *Clear and Simple as the Truth: Writing Classic Prose*. 2nd ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
 - William Zinsser. 2006. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. 7th ed. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

3.10 Week 10: Guest Lecture (June 21)

Remember: Response Paper due on June 22!

Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you on this date. Instead, you will have a guest lecturer, Ms. Meital Balmas-Cohen (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). She will talk about political personalization in the national and international arena and the effects of a personal political perception on decision-making processes (eg, voting in elections).

Background Readings:

- Meital Balmas and Tamir Sheafer. 2013. “Leaders First, Countries After: Mediated Political Personalization in the International Arena”. *Journal of Communication* 63 (3): 454–475. doi:10.1111/jcom.12027.
- Meital Balmas et al. 2014. “Two routes to personalized politics: Centralized and decentralized personalization”. *Party Politics* 20 (1): 37–51. doi:10.1177/1354068811436037.

3.11 Week 11: Personality (June 28)

Required Reading:

- Alan S. Gerber et al. 2011a. “The Big Five Personality Traits in the Political Arena”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 14:265–287. doi:10.1146/annurev-polisci-051010-111659.

Background Readings:

- Gian Vittorio Caprara and Michele Vecchione. 2013. “Personality Approaches to Political Behavior”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 23–58. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0002.

Presentations:

- Danny Azucar, Davide Marengo, and Michele Settanni. 2018. “Predicting the Big 5 personality traits from digital footprints on social media: A meta-analysis”. *Personality and Individual Differences* 124 (1): 150–159. doi:10.1016/j.paid.2017.12.018.
- Alan S. Gerber et al. 2011b. “Personality traits and participation in political processes”. *The Journal of Politics* 73 (3): 692–706. doi:10.1017/S0022381611000399.

- Harald Schoen and Markus Steinbrecher. 2013. “Beyond Total Effects: Exploring the Interplay of Personality and Attitudes in Affecting Turnout in the 2009 German Federal Election”. *Political Psychology* 34 (4): 533–552. doi:10.1111/pops.12031.

3.12 Week 12: Information Processing (July 5)

Required Reading:

- Charles S. Taber and Everett Young. 2013. “Political Information Processing”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 525–558. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0017.

Background Readings:

- Dan M. Kahan. 2016a. “The Politically Motivated Reasoning Paradigm, Part 1: What Politically Motivated Reasoning Is and How to Measure It”. In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, ed. by Robert A. Scott and Marlis C. Buchmann, 1–16. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. doi:10.1002/9781118900772.etrds0417.
- Dan M. Kahan. 2016b. “The Politically Motivated Reasoning Paradigm, Part 2: Unanswered Questions”. In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, ed. by Robert A. Scott and Marlis C. Buchmann, 1–15. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. doi:10.1002/9781118900772.etrds0418.
- Milton Lodge and Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Presentations:

- Brian J. Gaines et al. 2007. “Same Facts, Different Interpretations: Partisan Motivation and Opinion on Iraq”. *The Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 957–974. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2508.2007.00601.x.
- Milton Lodge and Charles S. Taber. 2005. “The Automaticity of Affect for Political Leaders, Groups, and Issues: An Experimental Test of the Hot Cognition Hypothesis”. *Political Psychology* 26 (3): 455–482. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9221.2005.00426.x.

3.13 Week 13: Emotions (July 12)

Required Reading:

- Ted Brader and George E. Marcus. 2013. “Emotion and Political Psychology”. In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, 2nd ed., ed. by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 165–204. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0006.

Background Readings:

- Bethany Albertson and Shana Kushner Gadarian. 2015. *Anxious Politics: Democratic Citizenship in a Threatening World*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- George E. Marcus, W. Russell Neuman, and Michael MacKuen. 2000. *Affective intel-*

ligence and political judgment. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Presentations:

- Bethany Albertson and Shana Kushner Gadarian. 2016. “Did that Scare You? Tips on Creating Emotion in Experimental Subjects”. *Political Analysis* 24 (4): 485–491. doi:10.1093/pan/mpw022.
- Shana Kushner Gadarian and Bethany Albertson. 2014. “Anxiety, Immigration, and the Search for Information”. *Political Psychology* 35 (2): 133–164. doi:10.1111/pops.12034.

3.14 Week 14: Discussion of Open Questions and Term Paper (July 19)