

<b>Political Science 329</b> <b>Fall 2021</b> <b>Sage 4215</b> <b>MWF 12:40-1:40</b> <b>Credit Hours: 3.0</b>	<b>Professor Michael Jasinski</b> <b>Sage 4624</b> <b>Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-1pm</b> <a href="mailto:jasinskm@uwosh.edu">jasinskm@uwosh.edu</a>
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## Political Psychology

“On the whole human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time.”  
-- George Orwell, “All Art Is Propaganda: Critical Essays”

**Course Description:** The course will focus on politically relevant aspects of human psychology and behavior, both individual and group. Topics discussed will include individual needs and preferences, the concept of rationality and alternative views on the conception of self-interest, factors affecting perception of the surrounding political environment, and how these phenomena translate into individual and group political activity.

### Political Science Essential Learning Outcomes

#### Understand and apply theory frameworks

Political Science students should be able to

- recognize normative and ethical components of politics
- understand theoretical foundations of politics in the different subfields
- recognize the value of theories for making sense of the past and present
- apply theoretical arguments and concepts in the service of explanation or prediction of political phenomena

#### Understand and explain contemporary politics

- Political Science students should be able to
- demonstrate an understanding of current political debates and themes in the different subfields
- connect theory and history in the service of answering “big questions” facing contemporary politics.

### Office hours - Office Hours (MS Teams)

The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor’s icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during

office hours, and will mark my availability as “busy” (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

**Grade and Assessment Policy:** Your course grade will consist of the following:

--**Weekly Responses.** Starting with week 2, there will be a set of response questions posted to Canvas.

The requirement here is to write 250-word responses for **four** of the discussion questions **for each week**. Submit them to the relevant dropbox under Assignments on Canvas.

Each response is graded on a four-point scale (1-4). These points will be earned as follows:

- Actually answers the question.
- Provides a theoretical explanation of the answer, using theoretical frameworks of this course.
- Introduces relevant information obtained for one of the readings, including readings for that week or other weeks. No reading may be cited more than in two responses per week.
- Is at least 250 words in length

Weekly responses should take the form of documents (.doc or .pdf formats) uploaded to their respective Canvas dropboxes, are due by the beginning of the following week (i.e., week 2 responses are due on Monday of Week 3, and so on throughout the semester), however, I will not assess any lateness penalties.

I will provide written feedback on Canvas to each of your answers. Collectively, they will amount to 60% of the final course grade.

--**Research Project:** This paper, no fewer than 15 pages in length (double spaced, 12pt font, etc.) will count for 30% of your course grade. The initial submission, due prior to Thanksgiving break, will count for 5% of the total grade, and the final submission, due at the end of the semester, will count for the remaining 25%.

For the topic, pick one of the following options.

**Option 1: Event Framing.** The focus of your paper would be a single event (ideally, a crisis situation), and the policy recommendations made by two individuals interpreting the same event (ideally, the recommendations may be quite different). They may be members of the same “team” or opposing ones.

The objective here is to try to determine why and how these two individuals viewed the same situation in very different ways, in other words, to ascertain the types and sources of bias evident in the views of these individuals. Your paper should examine the following aspects of the framing process:

- Individual operational codes.
- Loss and gain frames.
- Potential sources of misperception and bias.

- Game theory
- Group membership

The aim of the analysis is to ascertain which of the individuals' perception of reality turned out to be more valid, and determine which of the factors listed above played the key role(s).

**Option 2: Political Movement Analysis.** Pick a leader of an organization, political movement, political party, or a nation-state and analyze the relationship between the leaders and the followers.

- Is the movement built around positive or negative goals?
  - What are the leader's motives, skills, and abilities?
  - What is the leader-situation and leader-follower match in this instance?
  - What is the reward structure for the followers?
- And, last but not least, which of the above-mentioned factors determined the movement's success or failure?

### **Research Paper Grading Criteria:**

Each paper will be evaluated according to the following:

- Introduction that establishes what the topic of your paper is, and its importance to understanding international conflict.
- A clear hypothesis which explains the argument you are making in the paper.
- Extensive empirical evidence backing up your hypothesis.
- Supporting your assertions and evidence with bibliography and citations.
- Proper grammar, syntax, spelling.

Each of these categories will receive a mark of 1 (inadequate), 2 (adequate), or 3 (outstanding). A paper which scores nothing but 1s will receive a comprehensive grade of F (40%), a paper with nothing but 2s will receive a comprehensive grade of C- (70%), and a paper with nothing but 3s will receive a comprehensive grade of A (100%).

--**Attendance:** Highly encouraged! I will take attendance regularly, and while there is no attendance grade, there is a class participation grade (explained below) which will suffer if you have significance attendance gaps.

--**Participation in class discussion:** This accounts for the 20% of your course grade. Class participation grade will be assessed as follows:  
Frequent and topical participation (you are weekly participant in the discussion, in the form of providing insights, or even simply asking questions): 100%  
Occasional participation (once every few weeks you make a contribution): 75%  
No participation, or very rare participation (you may have said something once or twice during the entire semester): 50%

You will naturally not be penalized if your participation is negatively affected by quarantines, illness, other pandemic-related issues, personal or family. However, please do keep me informed if these issues arise.

**Expectations for Academic Honesty:** A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

**Note:** If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at [kruegerj@uwosh.edu](mailto:kruegerj@uwosh.edu). Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

**Disclosure statement:** "Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>."

**Statement of reasonable accommodation for student with disabilities**

<https://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus-statement>

**Note to Political Science Majors:** Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

**Grade Scale:** Final course grades will be assigned as follows: A: 92 and higher. A-: 90-91; B+: 88-89; B: 82-87; B-: 80-81; C+: 78-79; C: 72-77; C-: 70-71; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

**Week 1 Introduction**

Simon, "Human Nature in Politics"

Bumpus, "Phrenology"

Bank, "Of 'Native Skulls' and 'Noble Caucasians'"

**Week 2 Misperception and Bias**

Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception"

Jervis, "The Drunkard's Search"  
Nyhan and Reifler, "When Corrections Fail"  
Kunovich, "Perceived Unemployment"  
Nyhan, "Facts and Myths about Misperceptions"

### **Week 3 Neuroscience**

Camerer et al, "How Neuroscience Can Inform Economics"  
Fehr and Rangel, "Neuroeconomic Foundations of Economic Choice"  
Boone and Piccinini, "The Cognitive Neuroscience Revolution"

### **Week 4 Rationality**

Barnes and Sheppard, "Is There a Place for the Rational Actor?"  
Inglehart, "Post-Materialism in an Age of Insecurity"  
Babula, "Political Values in a Threat Environment"  
Axelrod, "The Emergence of Cooperation Among Egoists"  
Bendor and Swistak, "The Evolutionary Stability of Cooperation"  
Orbell and Dawes, "A Cognitive Miser Theory of Cooperator's Advantage"

### **Week 5 Prospect Theory**

Gurr, "Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence"  
Levy, Applications of Prospect Theory to Political Science"  
Tversky and Kahneman, "Rational Choice and the Framing of Decisions"  
Druckman and McDermott, "Emotion and the Framing of a Risky Choice"  
McDermott et al. "On the Evolutionary Origins of Prospect Theory Preferences"  
Peterson, "Risky Business"  
McDermott, Prospect Theory in Political Science"  
Levy, "Introduction to Prospect Theory"  
McInerney, "Prospect Theory and Soviet Policy toward Syria"  
McDermott, "Iran Hostage Rescue Mission"

### **Week 6 Operational Codes**

Walker, "Motivational Foundations of Political Belief Systems: A Reanalysis of the Operational Code Construct"  
Grunske and Jasinski "Two-Level Game Operational Code"  
Lyons, "The Political Socialization of Ghetto Children"  
Jaros, "Socialization to Politics"  
Crichlow, "Idealism or Pragmatism?"  
Dyson, "Russian President Vladimir Putin"

### **Week 7 Game Theory**

Kollock, "Social Dilemmas: The Anatomy of Cooperation"  
Snyder, "Prisoner's Dilemma and Chicken Models in International Politics"  
Plous, "Prisoner's Dilemma or Perceptual Dilemma?"  
Oskamp, "Factors Affecting Cooperation in a Prisoner's Dilemma Game"  
Grieco, "Realist Theory and the Problem of International Cooperation"  
Richards, "Shared Knowledge and Reciprocity in the Prisoner's Dilemma Game"  
Lomborg, "Nucleus and Shield"

### **Week 8 Group Behavior**

Cottam, "The Political Psychology of Groups"

Stets and Burke, "Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory"

Bearman, "The Social Structure of Suicide"

Tetlock, "Accountability: A Social Check on the Fundamental Attribution Error"

Vaughan, Tajfel, and Williams, "Bias in Reward Allocation in an Intergroup and Interpersonal Context"

Duckitt, "Prejudice and Intergroup Hostility"

### **Week 9 Trust**

Hardin, "Conceptions and Explanations of Trust"

Yamagishi and Kiyonari, "The Group as the Container of Generalized Reciprocity"

Stolle, "The Sources of Social Capital"

Bacharach and Gambetta, "Trust in Signs"

Jasinski, "Social Trust and Its Origins" (Ch. 4)

Jasinski, "Overcoming Particularism" (Ch. 5)

### **Week 10 Political Leadership**

Michels, "Political Parties"

Herrmann and Hagan, "Leadership Matters"

McDermott, "Psychobiography"

McDermott, "Leadership,"

Winter, "Leader Appeal, Leader Performance"

Nye, "Types and Skills"

Hafner-Burton, "Cognitive Revolution and the Political Psychology of Elite Decisionmaking"

Hafner-Burton, "Decision Maker Preferences for International Legal Cooperation"

### **Week 11 Social Movements**

Cottam, "Voting, Role of the Media, and Tolerance"

Klandermans, "Collective Political Action"

Huddy, "Group Identity and Political Cohesion"

Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic"

Lupia and Menning, "When Can Politicians Scare People Into Supporting Bad Policies?"

### **Week 12 Nations**

Masters, "The Biological Nature of the State"

Renan, "What Is A Nation?"

Hobsbawm, "Nation as an Invented Tradition"

Orwell, "Notes on Nationalism"

Druckman, "Nationalism, Patriotism, and Group Loyalty"

Berejikian and Dryzek, "Reflexive Action in International Politics"

Mintz and deRouen, "International, Domestic, and Cultural Factors Influencing Foreign Policy Decisionmaking"

Jasinski, "Anarchy, States, and Nations" (Chapter 3)

### **Week 13 Violence**

Nelson, "Review of the Biological Bases of Conflict"  
Ember and Ember, "War, Socialization, and Interpersonal Violence"  
Smirnov et al., "Ancestral War and the Evolutionary Origins of Heroism"  
Thayer, "Bringing in Darwin: Evolutionary Theory, Realism, and International Politics"  
Jasinski, "The Social Trust Theory of International Conflict" (Chapter 6)  
Jervis, "War and Misperception"  
Levy, "Misperception and Causes of War"  
Mendeloff, "Pernicious History as a Cause of National Misperceptions"

**Week 14 Genocide**

Darley, "Social Organization for the Production of Evil"  
Helm and Morelli, "Stanley Milgram and the Obedience Experiment"  
Shawn and Wong, "Ethnic Mobilization and the Seeds of Conflict"  
Harvey, "Primordialism, Evolutionary Theory, and Ethnic Violence in the Balkans"  
Kaufman, "Spiraling to Ethnic War" (through p. 118 only)  
Gagnon, "The Case of Serbia"  
Jasinski, "Means, Motive, and Opportunity"