This class is intended to be a reading seminar at the intersection of two disciplines, psychology and political science. We will do our best in this course to focus on the political, drawing upon more purely psychological work as needed. The purpose of the course is to bring all of us up to speed with one of the fundamental approaches to the study of politics, namely, to regard the actors as under the influence of psychological processes. There are many applications: candidate selection, formation of attitudes about politics, organizational dynamics, voting, and so on. Because Brehm is hopelessly parochial, the material here will be disproportionately drawn from American politics, although he is making an effort to identify relevant comparative and IR articles, too.

There’s a lot to read here, and much of it is in the form of articles. Regard syllabus as a work in progress. Perhaps some of the material will be out of sequence, some weeks will contain more meat (and more pages) than others, and there will, inevitably, be some topics which we give short shrift.

I would like one student a week to be responsible for opening the discussion with a brief presentation summarizing the key approaches and findings for the week’s readings. In addition, I would like one student each week to be responsible for assembling the materials for the subsequent week’s readings. (I should have copies of the readings for the following week in folders in my office, but there will always be a few that wander off). All of the readings are currently (or should be) on E-Reserve, and I will cycle a folder of readings for each week through the bins in the PS grad student lounge.

The final assignment for this course is to design an experiment. My hope is that you will be able to follow through on your experimental designs, perhaps as a component of your dissertation research. The format of the experimental design should follow that similar to the write-up of a Journal of Personality and Social Psychology article (but without the findings, of course): begin with a set-up of the key principles you intend to test, explain why we care about these principles, then write the particulars of your design (nature of manipulation, subject pool, whether deception will/not be used, then a discussion of how the experiment how only illuminates your principles but how these principles fit into a larger research problem.

General class participation counts for 25%, leadership of your assigned day of the class counts for 25%, and the final experiment counts for 50%.

1 Introduction: What is Political Psychology? (27 September)


Suggested Readings


2 Personality (2–4 October)


Authoritarianism


Suggested Readings


Tolerance


Suggested Readings

Obedience

3 Social and Political Learning (9–11 October)

Altruism

Suggested Readings

Culture and Politics

Socialization

Suggested Readings
Social Networks


4 Political Cognition I: Schemas (16–18 October)


Suggested Readings


5 Political Cognition II: Heuristics and Biases (23–25 October)


**Suggested Readings**


6 **Political Knowledge (30 October–1 November)**


**Suggested Readings**


7 Affect (6–8 November)


Suggested Readings


8 Political decision-making (13–15 November)


Suggested Readings


9 Groups (20–22 November)


Suggested Readings


10 Memory or On-line (27–29 November)


\textbf{Suggested Readings}


\section{Persuasion (4–6 December)}


\textbf{Suggested Readings}


\section{Trust (11–13 December)}


Suggested Readings

