

Political Psychology
Department of Psychology
New York University
(V89.0300 – Fall 2007)

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Classes will meet on Mondays from 12:00-1:50 PM in Meyer Room 771.

PRE-REQUISITES

To participate in this class, you should be a psychology major in good standing who has either taken social psychology or has received permission from the instructor. The goal of this course is to develop creative and critical skills in order to conduct and evaluate research on political psychology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required readings should be completed prior to each class meeting. Useful discussions follow only when everyone has completed all of the readings thoroughly and thoughtfully. I recommend that you read the articles in the order in which they are listed in this syllabus, but that, of course, is your decision.

Students will be responsible for writing 4 critical reaction papers (1 page, single-spaced) throughout the semester. These papers will be read aloud (time permitting), and they will serve as the basis for class discussion. Students will choose at the beginning of the term which of the 4 sessions and topics they will address in their critical reaction papers.

In addition, a final paper (approximately 10 pages, double-spaced, plus references) outlining a research design inspired (but not constrained) by the class readings will be due on Friday, December 14 at 5 PM.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jost, J.T., & Sidanius, J. (Eds.) (2004). *Political Psychology: Key Readings*.*
New York: Psychology Press. [Key Readings in Social Psychology series].
ISBN 1-84169-069-4

*This book (hereafter referred to as J & S) is available (downstairs) at the NYU Bookstore on Washington Place. [Access to additional required readings listed below will be provided, including most on NYU Blackboard via home.nyu.edu].

Session 1: Introduction to the Course

(Monday, September 10)

No readings are required prior to today's class session, but I recommend that students read the article by Jordan & Zanna entitled "How to Read a Journal Article in Social Psychology" (Appendix, J & S).

Session 2: History and Discipline of Political Psychology

(Monday, September 17)

Readings:

- (1) Jost, J.T., & Sidanius, J. (2004). Political psychology: An introduction. In J.T. Jost, & J. Sidanius (Eds.), *Political psychology: Key readings* (pp. 1-17). New York: Psychology Press/Taylor & Francis.
- (2) McGuire, W.J. (1993/2004). The poly-psy relationship: Three phases of a long affair. [Reading 1 in J & S]
- (3) Tetlock, P.E. (1994). Political psychology or politicized psychology: Is the road to scientific hell paved with good moral intentions? *Political Psychology*, 15, 509-529.
- (4) Sears, D.O. (1994). Ideological bias in political psychology: The view from scientific hell. *Political Psychology*, 15, 547-556.

Session 3: Authoritarianism and Mass Politics

(Monday, September 24)

Readings:

- (1) Brown, R. (1965/2004). The authoritarian personality and the organization of attitudes. [Reading 2 in J & S]
- (2) Doty, R.M., Peterson, B. E. & Winter, D. G. (1991/2004). Threat and authoritarianism in the United States: 1978-1987. [Reading 3 in J & S]
- (3) McCann, S.J.H. (1997). Threatening times, "strong" presidential popular vote winners, and the victory margin, 1824-1964. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 73, 160-170.
- (4) Altemeyer, B. (1998/2004). The other "authoritarian personality."

[Reading 4 in J & S]

Session 4: Personality and Political Leadership

(Monday, October 1)

Readings:

- (1) Tomkins, S.S. (1963). Left and right: A basic dimension of ideology and personality. In R.W. White (Ed.), *The study of lives* (pp. 388–411). Chicago: Atherton.
- (2) Greenstein, F. (1992/2004). Can personality and politics be studied systematically? [Reading 5 in J & S]
- (3) Winter, D. G. (1987/2004). Leader appeal, leader performance, and the motive profiles of leaders and followers: A study of American presidents and elections. [Reading 6 in J & S]
- (4) Alford, J.R., Funk, C.L., & Hibbing, J.R. (2005). Are political orientations genetically transmitted? *American Political Science Review*, 99, 153-167.

No Class Session on October 8 because of the NYU calendar.

You have an extra week to complete a set of slightly longer readings prior to Session #5.

Session 5: Mass Media and Candidate Perception

(Monday, October 15)

Readings:

- (1) Mullen, B., Futrell, D., Stairs, D., Tice, D., Baumeister, R., Dawson, K., Riordan, C., Radloff, C., Goethals, G., Kennedy, J. & Rosenfeld, P. (1986). Newscasters' facial expressions and voting behavior of viewers: Can a smile elect a president? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51, 291-295.
- (2) Iyengar, S., Peters, M., & Kinder, D. (1982/2004). Experimental demonstrations of the "not-so-minimal" consequences of television news programs. [Reading 7 in J & S]
- (3) Krosnick, J. A., & Kinder, D. R. (1990/2004). Altering the foundations of support for the president through priming. [Reading 8 in J & S]

- (4) Zaller, J.R. (1992). The mainstream and polarization effects. In J.R. Zaller (Ed.), *The nature and origins of mass opinion* (pp. 97-117). Cambridge University Press.
- (5) Marcus, G.E., & MacKuen, M. (1993/2004). Anxiety, enthusiasm, and the vote: The emotional underpinnings of learning and involvement during presidential campaigns. [Reading 9 in J & S]

Session 6: Social Justice and the Importance of Legitimacy

(Monday, October 22)

Readings:

- (1) Lerner, M.J. (2003). The justice motive: Where social psychologists found it, how they lost it, and why they may not find it again. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 7, 388-399.
- (2) Miller, D.T. (2001). Disrespect and the experience of injustice. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 52, 527-553.
- (3) Kelman, H.C. (2001). Reflections on social and psychological processes of legitimization and delegitimation. In J.T. Jost & B. Major (Eds.), *The psychology of legitimacy: Emerging perspectives on ideology, justice, and intergroup relations* (pp. 54-73). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- (4) Tyler, T.R. (2006). Psychological perspectives on legitimacy and legitimation. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 57, 1-26

Session 7: Does Ideology Exist?

(Monday, October 29)

Readings:

- (1) Converse, P.E. (1964). The nature of belief systems in mass publics. [Reading 10 in J & S]
- (2) Conover, P., & Feldman, S. (1981). The origins and meaning of liberal/conservative self-identifications. [Reading 11 in J & S]
- (3) Menand, L. (2004, August 30). The unpolitical animal. *The New Yorker*, 92-96.
- (4) Jost, J. T. (2006). The end of the end of ideology. *American Psychologist*, 61, 1-20.

Session 8: Cognitive-Motivational Styles and Ideological Functioning

(Monday, November 5)

Readings:

- (1) Lane, R. E. (1959/2004). The fear of equality. [Reading 12 in J & S]
- (2) Tetlock, P. E. (1984/2004). Cognitive style and political belief systems in the British House of Commons. [Reading 13 in J & S]
- (3) Jost, J.T., Glaser, J., Kruglanski, A.W., & Sulloway, F. (2003a). Political conservatism as motivated social cognition. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 339-375.
- (4) Greenberg, J., & Jonas, E. (2003). Psychological motives and political orientation—The left, the right, and the rigid: Comment on Jost et al. (2003). *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 376-382.
- (5) Jost, J.T., Glaser, J., Kruglanski, A.W., & Sulloway, F. (2003b). Exceptions that prove the rule—Using a theory of motivated social cognition to account for ideological incongruities and political anomalies: Reply to Greenberg & Jonas (2003). *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 383-393.

Session 9: Challenges of Decision-Making

(Monday, November 12)

Readings:

- (1) Quattrone, G. A. & Tversky, A. (1988/2004). Contrasting rational and psychological analyses of political choice. [Reading 14 in J & S]
- (2) Jervis, R. (1993/2004). The drunkard's search. [Reading 15 in J & S]
- (3) Kramer, R.M. (1998). Revisiting the Bay of Pigs and Vietnam decisions 25 years later: How well has the Groupthink hypothesis stood the test of time? *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 73, 236-271.
- (4) Lerner, J.S., & Tetlock, P.E. (1999). Accounting for the effects of accountability. *Psychological Bulletin*, 125, 255-275.

Session 10: Social Identity, Social Dominance, and System Justification

(Monday, November 19)

Readings:

- (1) Tajfel, H., & Turner, J.C. (1986/2004). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. [Reading 16 in J & S]
- (2) Sidanius, J., & Pratto, R. (1999/2004). Social dominance theory: A new synthesis. [Reading 18 in J & S]
- (3) Jost, J.T., Banaji, M.R., & Nosek, B.A. (2004). A decade of system justification theory: Accumulated evidence of conscious and unconscious bolstering of the status quo. *Political Psychology, 25*, 881-919.
- (4) Rubin, M., & Hewstone, M. (2004). Social identity, system justification, and social dominance: Commentary on Reicher, Jost et al., and Sidanius et al. *Political Psychology, 25*, 823-844.

Session 11: Enduring Problems of Racial Prejudice

(Monday, November 26)

Readings:

- (1) Bobo, L. (1988/2004). Group conflict, prejudice and the paradox of contemporary racial attitudes. [Reading 19 in J & S]
- (2) Dovidio, J. F., & Gaertner, S.L. (1998). On the nature of contemporary prejudice: The causes, consequences, and challenges of aversive racism. In J.L. Eberhart & S.T. Fiske (Eds.), *Confronting prejudice: The problem and the response* (pp. 3-32). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- (3) Sears, D.O., van Laar, C., Carrillo, M., & Kosterman, R. (1997/2004). Is it really racism? The origins of white Americans' opposition to race-targeted policies. [Reading 20 in J & S]
- (4) Sniderman, P.M., Crosby, G.C., & Howell, W.G. (2000). The politics of race. In D.O. Sears, J. Sidanius, & L. Bobo (Eds.), *Racialized politics: The debate about racism in America* (pp. 236-279). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Session 12: Evil, Violence, and Terrorism

(Monday, December 3)

Readings:

- (1) Darley, J.M. (1992/2004). Social organization for the production of evil. [Reading 21 in J & S]

- (2) Crenshaw, M. (1986/2004). The psychology of political terrorism. [Reading 22 in J & S]
- (3) Kruglanski, A. W., & Fishman, S. (2006). The psychology of terrorism: 'Syndrome' versus 'tool' perspectives. *Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence*, 18, 193-216.
- (4) Davis, D.W., & Silver, B. D. (2004). Civil liberties vs. security: Public opinion in the context of the terrorist attacks on America. *American Journal of Political Science*, 48, 28-46.

Session 13: Protest, Revolution, and Political Transformation

(Monday, December 10)

Readings:

- (1) Gurr, T.R. (1970). Relative deprivation and the impetus to violence. In T.R. Gurr (Ed.), *Why men rebel* (pp. 22-58). Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- (2) Eckstein, H. (1980/2004). Theoretical approaches to explaining collective political violence. [Reading 23 in J & S]
- (3) Simon, B., & Klandermans, B. (2001/2004). Politicized collective identity. [Reading 24 in J & S]
- (4) Mansbridge, J. (2005). Cracking through hegemonic ideology: The logic of formal justice. *Social Justice Research*, 18, 335-347.

Final Papers are Due on Friday, December 14 at 5 PM!!!