Syllabus

POS 4206 Political Psychology
Dr. Terri Susan Fine
Fall 2012

Section	Location	Credit Hours
0W59	World Wide Web	3

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Terri Susan Fine Professor of Political Science Associate Director, Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government
Office	Phillips Hall 302K
Office Hours	Wednesday 1:00pm-5:00pm and by appointment (Phillips Hall 302K) Note: Appointments available in the political science department, at the Lou Frey Institute in the Research Park (easy parking and no permit needed if you drive). The #9 UCF Shuttle will take you there (Stop #2 —Florida Institute of Government stop), or we can meet by telephone.
Phone	407-823-2081 (Political Science Department) 407-823-3636 (Lou Frey Institute)
Course mail	Available through the “mail” function on the course home page. Contacting me through the "mail" function insures no SPAM and faster responsiveness.
Personal e-mail	terri.fine@ucf.edu **Note:** E-mail to this personal account is to be used for emergencies only (i.e. if you have no Internet access); All regular communication must go through the course “mail” function. Non-emergency e-mail submitted to my personal account will not receive a response.
Course page	Available through myucf

Course Description

This course will introduce you to various aspects of political psychology giving special emphasis to the American political experience. The way that the public views its political world is a function of how that political world is presented to it. The cultural dynamics that frame the political experience are integral to developing our understanding of how the public sees its role in the political process. It is also important that we understand how that framework influences citizen participation in that process. The course will first look at various aspects of political psychology including attitudes and behavior, information processing, and political decision making. We will then consider how all of these issues function within the context of the welfare controversy. In so doing, we can better understand how political psychology affects the public reaction to areas of policy controversy, particularly those that cue competing values.

Course Goals: The primary goals of this course are to understand the relationship between psychology and politics from four core perspectives: theoretical orientations, mass-level participation, elite behavior, and public policy.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, you will be able to develop approaches to analyzing the relationship between psychology and politics and critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy. You will also be able to evaluate how political psychology affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.

Course Texts

Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases by David Patrick Houghton, New York: Routledge Press. ISBN: 978-0-415-99014-1.

The Politics of Policy Change: Welfare, Medicare and Social Security Reform in the United States by Daniel Beland and Alex Waddan, Washington, DC: George Washington University Press. ISBN: 978-1-58901-884-6.

These paperbacks are available in the campus bookstore and on Amazon.com (www.amazon.com).

Assessment

Grades will be based on several Internet Learning Modules, discussions, and quizzes. The entire course will be conducted on-line; there will be no on-campus meetings. Your grade will be determined as follows:

Internet Learning Modules	45%
Quizzes	25%
Discussions	30%

All assignments are due on the day and time posted; late assignments may be submitted with prior arrangement with the instructor and submission of documentation explaining why submitting the assignment on time was not possible. The instructor must be notified within 48 hours of the missed assignment (unless doing so is impossible and the reason is documented) in order to be eligible to submit that assignment late.

Assessment Rubric

Formative Assessment	**Course Objectives Met**
Internet Learning Modules	Analyze the relationship between psychology and politics in the United States Critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy Evaluate how political psychology affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.
Quizzes	Understand how religion and politics affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.
Discussions	Analyze the relationship between psychology and politics in the United States Critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy Evaluate how political psychology affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.

Grading

This course utilizes plus/minus grading. Your recorded final grade will be one of the following: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. There will be no A+, F+ or F-.

Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.75	C-	1.75
B+	3.25	D+	1.25
B	3.0	D	1.00
B-	2.75	D-	.75
C+	2.25	F	0

Reading Assignments

Please contact me if you have any problems with the course. Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term. A revised syllabus may be issued at my discretion.

Grading Procedures

Final grades are determined through the use of the following letter grades: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. Grades of A+, F+ and F- are not used.

Numerical grades compute into letter grades as follows:

Grade	Score Range	Grade	Score Range
A	95 and up	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

Numerical grades will be determined for all modules and the average of all quizzes and converted to letter grades as noted above. Once letter grades have been determined for all assessments, letter grades are associated with the following scale:

Grade	Associated Score	Grade	Associated Score
A	11	C	5
A-	10	C-	4
B+	9	D+	3
B	8	D	2
B-	7	D-	1
C+	6	F	0

Using this scale, weights are assigned based on the syllabus. All scores are then determined and weighted accordingly. This overall score is then divided by 100 and applied to the 0-11/A-F grading scale above. **Note:** Grades are not rounded.

University Policies

The Golden Rule

Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in *The Golden Rule*. Students are apprised when they are accepted at the University that they must be aware of and follow these policies of conduct. See www.ucf.edu for details.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please make certain that all assignments are completed individually and for this class only. Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in *The Golden Rule*, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook.

See http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/ for further details.

1. Cheating whereby non-permissible written, visual or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on examinations, course assignments or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.

2. Plagiarism whereby another's work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

3. A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable.

Reactions to Cheating

ACADEMIC ACTION - Taken by Instructor, Chair, or Dean of College

1. Counseling
2. Loss of credit for specific assignment, exam, or project.
3. Removal from course with a grade of “F”

CONDUCT REVIEW ACTION - Taken by the Office of Student Conduct

1. Warning
2. Probation
3. Suspension
4. Expulsion
5. Permanent conduct record with UCF

Students with Disabilities

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

POS 4206 Political Psychology
Fall 2012 Schedule

Please contact me if you have any concerns about the reading load, tips on getting the most from your reading, or the course in general.

DH is *Political Psychology: Situation, Individuals, and Cases* by David Patrick Houghton

BW is *The Politics of Policy Change : Welfare, Medicare, and Social Security Reform in the United States* by Daniel Beland and Alex Waddan

Quizzes are generally due on Wednesdays
Discussions-Initial Postings are generally due on Wednesdays
Discussions-Response Postings are generally due on Fridays
Modules are generally due on Fridays

All assignments (quizzes, modules, discussions) are due at 11pm on their assigned days

Course Week	***Reading***	***Assignments***
August 20-August 24	No Assigned Reading	Syllabus Quiz due August 24 11pm
August 27-August 31	DH Chapter 1 DH Chapter 2	DH 1/2 MP due August 31 11pm Political Psychology and the Media due August 31 11pm
September 3- September 7	DH Chapter 3 DH Chapter 4	Discussion 1 Initial Posting due September 5 11pm Discussion 1 Response Posting due September 7 11pm DH Quiz 3/4 due September 7 11pm **Note: University Closed Monday September 3 for Labor Day**
September 10- September 14	DH Chapter 5 DH Chapter 6	Discussion 2 Initial Posting due September 12 11pm Discussion 2 Response Posting due September 14 11pm DH Quiz 5/6 due September 12 11pm Groupthink Case Study due September 12 11pm **Note: Office hours will be held this week on Tuesday, September 11**
September 17- September 21	DH Chapter 7 DH Chapter 8	DH Quiz 7/8 due September 19 11pm Political Psychobiography due September 21 11pm
September 24- September 28	DH Chapter 9 DH Chapter 10	DH Quiz 9/10 due September 26 11pm
October 1-October 5	DH Chapter 11 DH Chapter 12	DH Quiz 11/12 due October 3 11pm Political Campaigns due October 5 11pm
October 8-October 12	DH Chapter 13 DH Chapter 14	DH 13/14 due October 10 11pm Genocide due October 12 11pm

October 15-October 19	No Assigned Reading	Discussion 3 Initial Posting due October 17 11pm Discussion 3 Response Posting due October 19 11pm Symbolic Politics due October 19 11pm
October 22-October 26	DH Chapter 15 DH Chapter 16	DH 15/16 due October 24 11pm
October 29-November 2	BW Introduction	BW Introduction due October 31 11pm
November 5-November 9	BW Chapter 1	Discussion 4 Initial Posting due November 7 11pm Discussion 4 Response Posting due November 9 11pm BW Chapters 1 Quiz due November 7 11pm Saenz v. Roe due November 9 11pm
November 12-November 16	BW Chapter 2	Discussion 5 Initial Posting due November 14 11pm Discussion 5 Response Posting due November 16 11pm BW Chapter 2 Quiz due November 14 11pm
November 19-November 23	No Assigned Reading	**No Assignments** **Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday** **Note: There will be no office hours November 21**
November 26-November 30	BW Chapter 3 BW Conclusion	BW Chapter 3 Quiz due November 28 11pm Note: There is no quiz for BW Conclusion
Wednesday December 5		The Affordable Care Acts due 11pm **NOTE THE DAY**