Syllabus

POS 4206-0W59 Political Psychology

Dr. Terri Susan Fine
Fall 2015

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 Content Specialist, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Office	Phillips Hall 302K and Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government (in the Research Park)
Office Hours	Tuesday 11am-3pm Phillips Hall 302K and by appointment; appointments are also available at the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government Note: The Lou Frey Institute is in the Research Park (easy parking and no permit needed if you drive) at 12443 Research Parkway, Building 400, Suite 406. The #9 UCF Shuttle will take you there (Stop #2 —Florida Institute of Government stop; the Florida Institute of Government is in the same building as the Lou Frey Institute), or we can meet by telephone.
Phone	407-823-2081 (Political Science Department) or 407-823-3636 (Lou Frey Institute)

Course mail	Available through the “inbox” function on the course home page. Contacting me through the "inbox" function insures no SPAM and faster responsiveness.
Personal e-mail	terri.fine@ucf.edu **Note:** E-mail to this account is to be used for emergencies only (e.g., if you have no access to the course homepage); All regular communication must go through the course “inbox” function. Non-emergency e-mail submitted to my personal account will not receive a response.
Course page	http://webcourses.ucf.edu

Course Description

This course introduces 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 an understanding of how the public sees its role in the political process. It is also important that one understands 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. How these issues function within the context of the welfare controversy will then be investigated. In so doing, one 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:

a) Understand the theoretical orientation framing the relationship between psychology and politics
b) Explain mass-level political participation through the lens of political psychology
c) Explain elite behavior through the lens of political psychology
d) Understand how controversial public policies, and the processes that form them, are impacted by political psychology

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, you will be able to:

a) Develop approaches to analyzing the relationship between psychology and politics
b) Critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation and elite behavior.
c) Evaluate how political psychology affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions.

d) Describe how political psychology impacts policy making.

Course Texts

Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases by David Patrick Houghton, Second Edition, New York: Routledge Press. ISBN: 978-0-41583-382-0.

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 (8)	250 points each
Quizzes (12) **(Note: The syllabus quiz score is not factored into the overall quiz score or the final grade)**	125 points each
Discussions (5)	100 points each

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 political psychology 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.

Recorded Final Grades

This course utilizes plus/minus grading. The 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 based on the overall accumulated points. Numerical grades compute into letter grades as follows:

Letter Grade	Accumulated Points
A	3600 and higher
A-	3400-3599
B+	3300-3399
B	3200-3299
B-	3100-3199

C+	3000-3199
C	2900-2999
C-	2800-2899
D+	2700-2799
D	2600-2699
D-	2500-2599
F	2499 and lower

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

<u>ACADEMIC ACTION</u> - 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”

<u>CONDUCT REVIEW ACTION</u> - 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. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must be registered with Student Disability Services (SDS) and arrange for the professor to receive an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. SDS is located in Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sds@ucf.edu. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

POS 4206 Political Psychology
Fall 2015 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 (both Initial and Response postings) are generally due on Fridays
Internet Learning Modules (ILM) are generally due on Fridays

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

Do not rely on CANVAS for any deadlines;
CANVAS is not a substitute for the course schedule which is found below.

Course Week	***Reading***	***Assignments***
August 24-August 28	No Assigned Reading	Syllabus Quiz due August 28 11pm Note: The Syllabus Quiz score will not be computed as part of the final grade.
August 31-September 4	DH Chapter 1 DH Chapter 2	DH Quiz 1/2 due September 2 11pm ILM Political Psychology and the Media due September 4 11pm
September 7-September 11	DH Chapter 3 DH Chapter 4	DH Quiz 3/4 due September 9 11pm Discussion 1 Initial and Response Posting due September 11 11pm **Note: University Closed Monday September 7 for Labor Day**
September 14-September 18	DH Chapter 5 DH Chapter 6	DH Quiz 5/6 due September 16 11pm Discussion 2 Initial and Response Posting due September 18 11pm ILM Groupthink Case Study due September 18 11pm
September 21-	DH Chapter 7 DH Chapter 8	DH Quiz 7/8 due September 23 11pm ILM Political Psychobiography due September 25 11pm

September 25		
September 28-October 2	DH Chapter 9 DH Chapter 10	DH Quiz 9/10 due September 30 11pm
October 5-October 9	DH Chapter 11 DH Chapter 12	DH Quiz 11/12 due October 7 11pm ILM Political Campaigns due October 9 11pm
October 12-October 16	DH Chapter 13 DH Chapter 14	DH 13/14 Quiz due October 14 11pm ILM Genocide due October 16 11pm
October 19-October 23	No Assigned Reading	Discussion 3 Initial and Response Posting due October 21 11pm ILM Symbolic Politics due October 23 11pm
October 26-October 30	DH Chapter 15 DH Chapter 16	DH 15/16 Quiz due October 28 11pm
November 2-November 6	BW Introduction	BW Introduction Quiz due November 4 11pm
November 9-November 13	BW Chapter 1	BW Chapter 1 Quiz due November 13 11pm Discussion 4 Initial and Response Posting due November 13 11pm ILM Saenz v. Roe due November 13 11pm **Note: University Closed Wednesday November 11 for Veterans Day** **Note: In light of Veterans Day falling on a Wednesday, the quiz this week is due on Friday November 13**
November 16-November 20	BW Chapter 2	BW Chapter 2 Quiz due November 18 11pm Discussion 5 Initial and Response Posting due November 20 11pm
November 23-November 27	No Assigned Reading	**Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday**
November 30-December 4	BW Chapter 3 BW Conclusion	BW Chapter 3 Quiz due December 2 11pm Note: There is no quiz for BW Conclusion
Wednesday December 9		ILM The Affordable Care Acts due December 9 11pm **NOTE THE DAY**