POS 4206-0001: Political Psychology

Department of Political Science, College of Sciences
3 Credit Hours

Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Gary E. Smith	Term:	Fall 2018
Office Location:	313 Howard Philips Hall	Class Meeting Days:	MWF
Office Hours:	Friday: 11:00am – 2:00pm	Class Meeting Time:	9:30am – 10:20am
Phone:	407-823-0113	Class Location:	CB1: 308
Email:	Gary.smith@knights.ucf.edu Direct emails for emergencies only	Course Modality:	Lecture

Course Description

UCF Description: The psychological analysis of political behavior, with emphasis on the individual rather than the political system; includes political attitudes and communication, leadership, and personality influences on politics.

This course is designed to introduce students to a very important aspect of political behavior: the individual. When we talk about preferences, leadership, and foreign policy behavior, we often talk about them in terms of *personalities* and *beliefs*. However, the field of political science has constructed and tested theories that rest heavily on the rational actor assumption of decision-making; one in which the individual is able to take in all the information generated by the political environment and makes the best possible decision. We intuitively know that this is simply not how people make decisions. Decisions are made by choosing the options that we find most acceptable and what is most acceptable is often influenced by our views, our cognitive shortcomings, our attitudes, and our personalities. This course will expose you to leading theories in the field of political psychology and how those theories have influenced how we think about political preferences, decision-making, and attitudes.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a strong grasp of major theories in political psychology.
- Critically analyze the quality of the theories based upon research design, quality of data, and methods used to test theories.
- Confidently discuss how these theories might be at work in current political events.
- Develop verbal and written communication skills.
- Design and conduct independent research.

- Write a quality term paper.

Enrollment Requirements

Prerequisites: POS 2041 or ENC 1102.

Important Dates

Important dates can include any university holidays or closures, drop/withdrawal deadlines, exam dates, assignment deadlines, or other dates in the UCF Academic Calendar that pertain to your course. You may want to include major assignment and exam dates in this section and provide students with a separate semester schedule that details each week's readings and activities. In order to promote student success, you are encouraged to post at least one major course grade prior to the course withdrawal deadline.

Assignment Submission

Participation: In order for students to receive credit for daily participation, students must submit a slip of paper with first name and last name, the date, and a short summation of your contribution to the discussion.

Term Paper: All associated term paper documents (detailed below) must be uploaded to the appropriate areas in Webcourses. Only Microsoft Word Documents or PDFs will be accepted. Any other format or any form of corrupted files will not be accepted and considered late.

Midterm & Final Exams: These exams will take place during designated times in class. Students must bring a **brown scantron** and **Green Book**. None will be provided for you. The final exam will be cumulative and discussed in detail below.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Grading Methods

Grading Scale
A – 100% - 90%
B – 89% - 80%
C – 79% - 70%
D – 69% - 60%
F - <59%

I reserve the right to curve grades if I deem it necessary for any reason. In the event a curve is implemented, students will be notified via Webcourses announcements.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Late Work Policy

Make-up exams and assignments will not be offered unless there are extreme circumstances or circumstances that the university requires the instructor to excuse late work without penalty.

Acceptable reasons for absences may include:

- Illness
- Serious Family Emergencies
- Special Curricular Requirements (i.e. judging trips, field trips, or professional conferences)
- Military Obligations
- Severe Weather Conditions that Prohibit Safe Travel to Class
- Religious Holidays

While these are acceptable reasons for missing an exam one or more of the following procedures must be followed in order to receive an accommodation from the instructor:

- Prior notification for scheduled events (i.e. special curricular requirements, military obligations, and religious holidays). Failure to notify me prior to these events will preclude allowing any make-up exams or late submissions. Moreover, you must receive a reply from me that indicates that acceptable alternative, otherwise the normal late-work penalties – discussed below – will apply.
- Because this category of events cannot easily be foreseen, students need only submit documentation of illness, serious family emergency, or severe weather conditions. Examples of the appropriate documentation include:
    - Obituary in the event of a family death
    - Note from a physician excusing the student from work/school
    - Accident reports (if you are in an automobile accident) with a visible date and time.
    - Any other document that may be appropriate for the given situation.

Should you fail to follow these procedures and miss an exam, no make-up exam will be given. Additionally, should you fail to follow these procedures and submit an assignment after its published due date, the assignment will receive a letter grade penalty for each **class** day that the assignment is late with a maximum deduction of 75%.

Course Assignments

Current Events Expectation

Students are expected to stay up-to-date on current events. To do this, students will follow domestic and international policy news through the Associated Press (AP) website (there will be a demonstration on the first day of class). Current events questions will appear on the Midterm and Final Exams, so make sure you are continually monitoring these events.

Participation – 10%

This is an upper-division Political Science course; therefore, students are expected to be present. This means that simply showing up is not going to cut it. In order to get credit for participation, students must engage in the discussion going on in the class. Engaging with the material in a critical manner and debating various topics with your instructor and classmates is pivotal to positive learning outcomes and useful retention of information. In order to receive credit for participation, students will submit a slip of paper at the end of each class with his/her name, the course number, the date, and a small blurb about their contribution. Such contributions can be questions or comments relevant to the topic, contributions to discussions about current events, or counter-points to something a classmate has said.

In class discussions must be civil and respectful. Any student who is excessively vulgar or openly hostile or threatening to other students or the instructor will be dismissed from that class period and will receive

no participation credit for that day. If this type of behavior is a consistent problem, the student may face administrative withdrawal from the class and referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Midterm Exam – 25%
This exam will be given in-class on the date listed in the course schedule. This exam will include multiple choice and short answer questions. Topics covered will include key current events (requirements discussed below) and short answer questions demonstrating an understanding of key theories discussed up to this point.

Final Exam – 25%

This exam will be cumulative and follow the pattern of the midterm There will be multiple choice current events questions and short answer questions where you demonstrate a strong grasp of the theories discussed in the course. **The exam will be in our normal classroom on Friday, December 7th, 2018 from 7:00am to 9:50am.** Coffee (decaf and regular) will be provided.

Term Paper – 40%

The largest portion of your grade is going to be your term paper. I require students to break the term paper writing process down into several parts. You must complete them in order, by the assigned deadline to proceed. For this paper, you will conduct what is called a "psychobiography" of a world leader. To do this you must identify a policy that is perplexing (i.e. appears to be irrational) that you believe can be explained by the leader's personality/beliefs (this process will be discussed during the course). This paper will be approximately 8-10 pages, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, and by formatted in the American Political Science Association (APSA) Citation Style (I will provide a style-guide in Webcourses).

Part I – Submission of Topic (Due 9/24/2018)

Students must submit a leader and policy they would like to analyze using the psychobiographical approach. I only allow a maximum of four students to write about the same leader, so this is on a first-come, first-served basis. For this assignment, you will submit one or two sentences indicating your leader and the policy that is perplexing. This is a complete/incomplete assignment. Once I approve your topic/leader, I will change your grade in Webcourses to complete. Failure to get a topic approved will result in the rejection of any subsequent submissions and, therefore, a zero on the final paper.

Part II – Submission of Rough Draft (Due 10/19/2018)

The second step is for students to submit a **complete rough draft by October 19th.** I will then review your rough draft and provide feedback on writing style, quality of evidence, structure, and argument. You will then receive a "mock grade" that indicates what grade the paper would have gotten had this been the final draft. You then have until the last day of class to meet with me, make edits, and resubmit. Should you be satisfied with the mock grade that you receive on the rough draft, notify me via email and I will simply give you the same grade for the final paper, no resubmission required. Failure to submit a rough draft will result in a zero grade on the term paper. Due to time constraints, this will be the only opportunity to have your paper receive very detailed feedback before you begin working on the final draft.

Part III – Submission of Final Draft (Due 11/30/2018)

The final step is to upload your final draft to Webcourses by the beginning of class on Friday November 30th (this is the last day we meet as a class). Again, you will receive detailed feedback during the grading process. Keep in mind that, even if you address all of my comments, you are not guaranteed an 'A' on the final draft. Other errors may become apparent or new errors may occur in the final draft. You can, however, expect detailed explanations of places where you lost points.

Extra Credit

Register to Vote: Students who can provide proof of voter registration (in any state in the U.S.) will receive a 5-point bonus on their final exam. Students who wish to take part in this extra credit assignment and face barriers to voter registration (i.e. legal hurdles, non-citizens, etc.) will be given an alternative assignment. However, documentation regarding such barriers must be provided.

Grade Dissemination

To comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), grades must not be released to third parties (including parents), which includes posting grades by name, SSN, or UCFID. Therefore, all grades will be uploaded in Webcourses for students to review. No detailed discussion of grades can take place via email or by phone. Students must come to my office to meet face-to-face during office hours or by appointment.

Course Materials and Resources

Assigned Texts:

Stoessing, Arthur. 2010. *Why Nations Go to War: 11th Edition*. Cengage Publishing.

Houghton, David P. 2014. *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals, and Cases*. Taylor & Francis.

Horowitz, Michael C., Alan C. Stam III, and Cali M. Ellis. 2015. *Why Leaders Fight*. Cambridge University Press.

Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy, and Jack S. Levy (eds). 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. Available for free through the UCF Library's Website and posted on Webcourses.

Policy Statements

Academic Integrity

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action. http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources comes from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9> and has been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism
In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledg-ing its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Misuse of Sources
A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quota-tion marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately. This is easily avoided if you follow the assigned style-guide.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.
For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials
There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes
Faculty have reported errors in class notes being sold by third parties, and the errors may be contributing to higher failure rates in some classes. The following is a statement appropriate for distribution to your classes or for inclusion on your syllabus:
Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

In-Class Recording Policy
Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Campus Safety Statement
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency. (Insert class-specific details if appropriate)
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left). (insert class specific information if appropriate)
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk) about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Course Schedule

DATE	**Topic**	**Readings**
Mon Aug 20, 2018	Introductions, policies, and discussions of political psychology.	None
Wed Aug 22, 2018	Theoretical Foundations of Political Psychology.	Introduction: *Oxford Handbook* Introduction: *Political Psychology*
Fri Aug 24, 2018	***Academic Activity Due***	Chapters 1 & 2: *Political Psychology*
Mon Aug 27, 2018	The Situation	Chapter 3: *Political Psychology*
Wed Aug 29, 2018	The Situation	Chapter 4: *Political Psychology*
Fri Aug 31, 2018	The Situation	Chapter 5: *Political Psychology*
Mon Sep 3, 2018	Enjoy Your Labor Day	NONE
Wed Sep 5, 2018	The Situation	Chapter 6: *Political Psychology*
Fri Sep 7, 2018	The Individual - **Don't miss this class**	Chapter 7: *Political Psychology* Post - *Oxford Handbook*
Mon Sep 10, 2018	The Individual	Chapter 8: *Political Psychology*

Wed Sep 12, 2018	The Individual	Chapter 9: *Political Psychology* George 1969 – provided on Webcourses.
Fri Sep 14, 2018	The Individual	Chapter 10: *Political Psychology*
Mon Sep 17, 2018	The Individual	Chapter 11: *Political Psychology*
Wed Sep 19, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Preface and Chapter 1: *Why Nations go to War*
Fri Sep 21, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Chapters 2 & 3: *Why Nations go to War*
Mon Sep 24, 2018	***Topic Due in Webcourses***	Chapters 4 & 5: *Why Nations go to War*
Wed Sep 26, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Chapters 6 & 7: *Why Nations go to War*
Fri Sep 28, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Chapters 8 & 9: *Why Nations go to War*
Mon Oct 1, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Chapter 10 & Epilogue: *Why Nations go to War*
Wed Oct 3, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Levy - *Oxford Handbook* Introduction and Chapter 1: *Why Leaders Fight*
Fri Oct 5, 2018	Political Psych. In IR.	Chapters 4 & 5: *Why Leaders Fight*
Mon Oct 8, 2018	***Midterm Exam***	
Wed Oct 10, 2018	Political Psych. In IR	Stein – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Oct 12, 2018	Political Psych. In IR	Dyson and 'T Hart – *Oxford Handbook*
Mon Oct 15, 2018	Political Psych in IR	Fisher, Kelman and Nan – *Oxford Handbook*
Wed Oct 17, 2018	Political Psych & Ideology	Feldman – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Oct 19, 2018	Political Psych & Groups ***Rough Draft Due in Webcourses***	Chapter 14: *Political Psychology*
Mon Oct 22, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Chapter 15: *Political Psychology*
Wed Oct 24, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Huddy – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Oct 26, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Klandermans – *Oxford Handbook*
Mon Oct 29, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Kinder – *Oxford Handbook*
Wed Oct 31, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Ramiah and Hewstone – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Nov 2, 2018	Political Psych & Groups	Bar-Tal and Halperin – *Oxford Handbook*
Mon Nov 5, 2018	Political Psych & Political Behavior	Chapter 12: *Political Psychology*
Wed Nov 7, 2018	Political Psych & Political Behavior	Taber & Young – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Nov 9, 2018	Political Psych & Political Behavior	Tyler & Van Der Toon – *Oxford Handbook*
Mon Nov 12, 2018		**No Class – Veteran's Day**
Wed Nov 14, 2018	Political Psych & Political Behavior	Myers & Mendelberg – *Oxford Handbook*
Fri Nov 16, 2018	Political Psych & Communication	Chapter 17: *Political Psychology*
Mon Nov 19, 2018	Political Psych & Communication	Valentino & Nardis – *Oxford Handbook*
Wed Nov 21, 2018	Political Psych & Security	Chapter 16: *Political Psychology*

Fri Nov 23, 2018		**No Class – Thanksgiving**
Mon Nov 26, 2018	Political Psych & Security	Chapter 17: *Political Psychology*
Wed Nov 28, 2018	Political Psych & Security	Excerpt in Webcourses
Fri Nov 30, 2018	Final Exam Review	***Final Paper Due in Webcourses***
Fri Dec 7, 2018		**Final Exam: 7:00am – 9:50am**