# Syllabus and Schedule

## POS 4206-DW60 Political Psychology

Dr. Terri Susan Fine
Summer 2021

| Section | Location | Credit Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 0W60 | World Wide Web | 3 |

## Instructor Contact

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| **Instructor** | Dr. Terri Susan Fine<br>Professor of Political Science<br>Associate Director, Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government |
| **Office Hours** | By appointment: Face-to-face via ZOOM or telephone at our mutual convenience<br><br>**Appointments are readily available and flexible—feel free to meet with me as the need arises.** |
| **Phone** | 407-823-2081 (voicemail not available); please send an e-mail with a number where I may reach you if needed. |
| **Course mail** | Available through the "Inbox" function on the course home page (CANVAS menu, on left). Contacting me through the course insures no SPAM and faster responses. Avoid using "Discussions" to send personal messages as discussions may be seen by all course participants |
| **Personal e-mail** | terri.fine@ucf.edu<br><br>**Note:** E-mail to this personal account is to be used for emergencies only (i.e. if you have no |

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| | CANVAS access);<br><br>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** | https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381206 |

## 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

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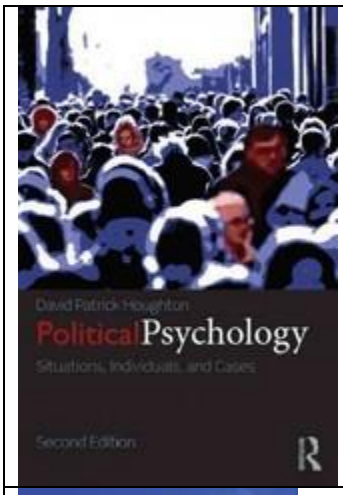
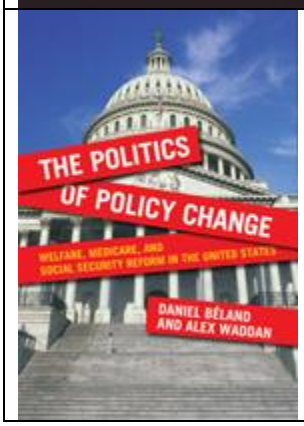
|  | *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals and Cases* by David Patrick Houghton, Second Edition, New York: Routledge Press.<br><br>ISBN: 978-0-41583-382-0.<br><br>**<u>Be certain to purchase this textbook only and not older or alternate editions.</u>** |
|  | *The Politics of Policy Change: Welfare, Medicare and Social Security Reform in the United States* by Daniel Beland and Alex Waddan, Washington, DC: George Washington University Press.<br><br>ISBN: 978-1-58901-884-6.<br><br>**<u>Be certain to purchase this textbook only and not older or alternate editions.</u>** |

## Assessment

Grades will be based on several analyses, discussions, and quizzes, along with an extra credit opportunity. The entire course will be conducted on-line; there will be no face-to-face meetings.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

| Assignment Type | Number of Each Assignment Type | Points Available |
|---|---|---|
| Analyses | 6 | 350 points each |
| Quizzes | 13 | 125 points each |
| Discussions | 6 | 100 points each |
| Extra Credit | 1 | 150 points |

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

**Course Navigation**

Course materials are included on the "Modules" tab.

Below is a short description of each module:

| **Module Name** | **Module Description** |
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| Course Navigation | This module includes materials focusing on the "nuts and bolts" of the course including the syllabus, a course navigation PowerPoint and a PowerPoint introducing the instructor to the class. |
| Student Success | This module includes materials focusing on student success including a PowerPoint focusing on proofreading and professional presentation and a list of writing resources and strategies for avoiding plagiarism. |
| Introduction | This module includes information on the two assessments required for the Introduction module. These assessments include a course navigation quiz and an interactive introduction discussion.<br><br>**Note: The U.S. Department of Education requires that all students complete a scored assessment during the first week of classes in each course in which they are enrolled. Students who do not complete the course navigation quiz and the interactive introduction discussion may be removed from the course by the university.** |
| Module One: | This module includes instructions and materials for completing "Module One: Political Psychology as an Academic Discipline" |
| Module Two | This module includes instructions and materials for completing "Module Two: Political Psychology and Political Situations" |
| Module Three | This module includes instructions and materials for completing "Module Three: Political Psychology and the Individual" |
| Module Four | This module includes instructions and materials for completing "Module Four: Bringing Together the Situation and the Individual" |
| Module Five | This module includes instructions and materials for completing "Module Five: The Politics Psychology of Policy Change" |
| Extra Credit (Optional) | This module includes instructions and materials for completing a short optional extra credit activity. |

## 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** |
|---|---|---|---|

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

## Formative Assessment Goals and Objectives

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| **Analyses** | Analyze the relationship between psychology and politics in the United States<br>Critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy<br>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<br>Critique the role that psychology plays in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy<br><br>Evaluate how political psychology affects and is affected by political and electoral institutions. |

## Grading Procedures

Final grades are based on the overall accumulated points. Numerical grades compute into letter grades as follows (Note: Percentages are not rounded):

| Letter Grade | Accumulated Points | Approximate Accumulated Percentage of Total Points |
|---|---|---|
| A | 4020 and higher | 93% |
| A- | 3800-4019 | 88% |
| B+ | 3680-3799 | 85% |
| B | 3500-3679 | 81% |
| B- | 3375-3499 | 78% |
| C+ | 3240-3374 | 75% |
| C | 3070-3239 | 71% |
| C- | 2940-3069 | 68% |
| D+ | 2810-2939 | 65% |
| D | 2640-2809 | 61% |
| D- | 2510-2639 | 58% |
| F | 2509 and lower | |

# POS 4206 Political Psychology
# Summer 2021 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. 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.

All assignments (quizzes, analyses, discussions) are due at 11:59pm on Fridays.

**All course assignments are described in the course modules. Access course modules by clicking on "Modules" on the left menu of the course "Home" page.**

| Module | Module Assignments | Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Introduction Module** | Course Orientation Quiz<br><br>Interactive Discussion: Class Introductions<br><br>**(NOTE: The Introduction Module score will not be included in the determination of final grades. Failure to complete the Course Orientation quiz places students at risk for course withdrawal)** | Friday, May 21, 11:59pm |
| **Module One: Political Psychology as an Academic Discipline** | Houghton, Chapter 1/2<br><br>Analysis: Political Psychology and the Media | Friday, May 28, 11:59pm |
| **Module Two: Political Psychology and Political Situations** | Houghton, Chapter 3/4 Quiz<br>Houghton, Chapter 5/6 Quiz<br><br>Interactive Discussion: Tabula Rasa<br>Interactive Discussion: Decision Making<br><br>Analysis: Groupthink | Friday, June 4, 11:59pm |
| **Module Three: Political Psychology and the Individual** | Houghton, Chapter 7/8 Quiz<br>Houghton, Chapter 9/10 Quiz<br><br>Analysis: Political Psychobiography | Friday, June 11, 11:59pm |
| | Houghton, Chapter 11/12 Quiz<br>Houghton, Chapter 13/14 Quiz<br><br>Analysis: Genocide<br>Interactive Discussion: Presidential Campaigns | Friday, June 18, 11:59pm |
| **Module Four: Bringing Together the Situation** | Houghton, Chapter 15/16 Quiz<br>Houghton, Chapter 17/18 Quiz | Friday, June 25, 11:59pm |

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| **and the Individual** | Interactive Discussion: Symbolic Politics | |
| **Module Five: The Politics Psychology of Policy Change** | Beland and Waddan, Introduction Quiz<br>Beland and Waddan, Chapter 1 Quiz<br><br>Interactive Discussion: Welfare Reform | Friday, July 2. 11:59pm |
| | Beland and Waddan, Chapter 2 Quiz<br>Beland and Waddan, Chapter 3 Quiz<br><br>Analysis: Saenz v. Roe | Friday, July 9, 11:59pm |
| | Interactive Discussion: Medicare<br><br>Analysis: Social Welfare | Friday, July 16, 11:59pm |
| **Extra Credit**<br><br>This **OPTIONAL** extra credit assignment may be used to make up missed points or to add to your overall score. | **Extra Credit** Short Activity: Issue Ownership and U.S. Foreign Policy | Friday, July 16, 11:59pm |

## University Policies

**Academic Integrity:**

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's *Rules of Conduct*. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

*Unauthorized assistance:* Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

*Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means:* The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

*Commercial use of academic material:* Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

*Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work including:*

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| Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. |

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| Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor. |
| Helping another violate academic behavior standards. |

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices".

**Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:**

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. 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 consult *The Golden Rule*.

**Course Accessibility Statement:**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 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. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

**University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes**

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

**Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality**

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

**COVID-19 and Illness Notification**

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

**In Case of Faculty Illness**

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or a course message or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

**Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement**

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

**Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses:**

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”

Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors in private.

**Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities:**

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied.

**Religious Observances:**

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class or an assignment deadline for a religious observance. Notice one week in advance is required at which time we will negotiate appropriate deadlines for assessments that will be missed due to religious observance.

**Deployed Active Duty Military Students:**

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.