

**Leiden University
Department of Political Science
Campus The Hague**

Political Psychology

**Tuesday, February 5 - March 26, 2009, 19:15-21:00
Location: Lange Houtstraat 7, Room 101
Saturday Meetings (28.02.): Lange Houtstraat 5, Room 404/405
Last Meeting (26.03.): Lange Voorhout 44, Room LV0
MA, Semester 2, Block 3
10 ECTS, Level 500
Course Code: HVMSPP08**

Instructor
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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of political psychology. It focuses on how people—voters and political leaders, individuals and groups—think about politics, make political decisions, and engage in political behaviors. The course introduces and explores important theories and concepts, reviews important research, and looks at classic and new methods used in psychological research.

Among the topics covered in the course are persuasion and attitude change, political knowledge, cognitions and emotions, motivated information processing, values and personality traits, stereotyping and racism as well as individual, group, and elite decision-making.

By becoming familiar with the psychological perspective and approach to political questions, students will have the tools to develop their own research hypotheses and to propose research designs to answer them. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions, including a short presentation, and to write several short reaction papers in response to the assigned readings and a final research proposal.

Method of Instruction

Short lectures, discussion, and student presentations.

Readings

Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. 2003. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Journal articles and book chapters (via Blackboard).

Papers, Presentation, and Participation

Your final grade is based on a research proposal, four reaction papers, a short presentation, and class participation.

Research Proposal:	30%
4 Reaction Papers:	40% (10% each)
Short Presentation:	15%
Participation:	15%

Reaction Papers. Students are expected to write 4 short reaction papers of approx. 2 to 3 pages during the course, before class meetings of their choice (except when giving a presentation). The papers should offer a short, critical evaluation of either one (or more) of the research studies covered in a given class or discuss a theoretical concept from the readings for a given class in light of the material covered before. Keep in mind that reaction papers do not summarize beyond one or two sentences but discuss and evaluate concepts or studies. The reaction papers are due *before* class (via Ephorus and as hard copy in class). Late submissions are *not* accepted.

Presentation. Students are expected to give a short presentation (about 10 minutes) during the course. The presentation should (1) summarize and (2) discuss and evaluate a research study relevant to the topic of a given class meeting. Presenters should be prepared to lead a short discussion following the presentation. Students might choose a starred research article from the course readings, an article from the list of recommended readings at the end of the syllabus, or find their own research article (but note that all articles have to be approved by the instructor). The following rules apply:

- There will be at most two presentations per class meeting.
- The general topics will be assigned during the first class meeting (starting with a “first come, first served” rule and followed, if necessary, by random assignment).
- On the day of the presentation, students should have a handout (e.g. one page summary) to distribute to the class (or email the handout the day before the class meeting to the instructor).

Research Proposal. At the end of the course, students will write a research proposal (ca. 3000 words). The basic idea is to choose a topic related to the course topics, do a literature review, come up with an idea for a new study, and propose a research design that could be used to answer the research question. More specifically, the following steps are involved:

Step 1: Choose a research topic.

Step 2: Narrow it down to a specific research question.

Step 3: Do a critical literature review relevant to your topic. The review should cover several new articles as well as the relevant literature from the course readings.

Step 4: Clearly define (conceptualize and operationalize) the important concepts and variables.

Step 5: If possible, formulate specific hypotheses (cause and effect statements) or specific research questions (if the literature does not offer clear expectations).

Step 6: Propose a research design that would allow you to test your hypothesis and/or answer your research questions (it could be a survey, an experiment, an observational study etc. Make sure to outline and discuss how you would measure your concepts/variables).

A short proposal for the research proposal is due March 12, 2009. The final research proposal is due on Monday, April 6, 2009. In both cases, late submissions are not accepted.

Participation. The seminar requires active and informed participation of the students in class discussions. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before each class meeting and to be prepared to discuss them. Class attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than one class will automatically fail the course. Properly documented emergencies and in advance requested and permitted absences are exempt from this rule.

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out the assigned course work, please contact the staff in the Department of Political Science. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Course Schedule

February 5, 2009	Course Introduction: Topics & Methods of Political Psychology
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Deadline: Assignment of general presentation topics.

Reading

Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. 2003. "The Psychologies Underlying Political Psychology." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 3-16.

Part I - The Basics

February 12, 2009	Nature vs. Nurture: Socialization, Personality (Traits), & Evolutionary Psychology
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Deadline: Specific presentation topics due (e.g. research articles).

Review

Sears, David O., and Sheri Levy. 2003. "Childhood and Adult Political Development." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 60-109.

Winter, David G. 2003. "Personality and Political Behavior." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 110-145.

Optional: Sidanius, Jim, and Robert Kurzban. 2003. "Evolutionary Approaches to Political Psychology." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 146-181.

Research

*Block, Jack, and Jeanne H. Block. 2006. "Nursery School Personality and Political Orientations Two Decades Later." *Journal of Research in Personality* 40 (5): 734-749.

*Winter, David G. 1987. "Leader Appeal, Leader Performance, and the Motive Profiles of Leaders and Followers: A Study of American Presidents and Elections." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 52 (1): 196-203.

*Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99 (2): 153-168.

February 19, 2009 From Good to (Very) Bad: Group Identity, Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Genocide

Review

Huddy, Leonie. 2003. "Group Identity and Political Cohesion." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 511-558.

Duckitt, John. 2003. "Prejudice and Intergroup Hostility." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 559-600.

Staub, Ervin, and Daniel Bar-Tal. 2003. "Genocide, Mass Killing, and Intractable Conflict." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 710-751.

Research

*Burger, Jerry M. 2009. "Replicating Milgram: Would People Still Obey Today?" *American Psychologist* 64 (1): 1-11.

Fiske, Susan T., Lasana T. Harris, and Amy J. C. Cuddy. 2004. "Why Ordinary People Torture Enemy Prisoners." *Science* 306: 1482-1483.

February 26, 2009 Belief Systems: Values & Ideology

Review

Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Values, Ideology, and the Structure of Political Attitudes." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 477-508.

Research

*Tetlock, Philip E. 1986. "A Value Pluralism Model of Ideological Reasoning." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 50 (4): 819-827.

*Caprara, Gian Vittorio, Shalom Schwartz, Cristina Capanna, Michele Vecchione, and Claudio Barbaranelli. 2006. "Personality and Politics: Values, Traits, and Political Choice." *Political Psychology* 27 (1): 1-28.

*Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism." *Political Psychology* 24 (1): 41-74.

Part II – Political Attitudes, Public Opinion, & Media Effects

February 28, 2009 (1) 10:00-12:00	Attitudes & The Converse/McGuire/Zaller-Model of Public Opinion
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Note: The Saturday classes take place in Room 404/405.

Research

*Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36 (3): 579-616

*Price, Vincent, and John Zaller. 1993. "Who Gets the News? Alternative Measures of News Reception and their Implications for Research." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 57 (2): 133-164.

Zaller, John. 1996. "The Myth of Massive Media Impact Revived: New Support for a Discredited Idea." In *Political Persuasion and Attitude Change*, ed. Diana C. Mutz, Paul M. Sniderman, and Richard A. Brody. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 17-78.

Zaller, John. 2001. "Monika Lewinsky and the Mainsprings of American Politics." In *Mediated Politics: Communication in the Future of Democracy*, eds. W. Lance Bennett and Robert M. Entman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 252-278.

February 28, 2009 (2) 13:00-15:00	Media Effects: Agenda-Setting, Priming, & Framing
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Review

Kinder, Donald R. 2003. "Communications and Politics in the Age of Information." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 357-393.

Entman, Robert M. 1993. "Framing: Toward Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm." *Journal of Communication* 43 (4): 51-58

Research

*Iyengar, Shanto. 1990. "Framing Responsibility for Political Issues: The Case of Poverty." *Political Behavior* 12 (1): 19-40.

*Slothuus, Rune. 2008. "More Than Weighting Cognitive Importance: A Dual-Process Model of Issue Framing Effects." *Political Psychology* 29 (1): 1-28.

Vallone, Robert P., Lee Ross, and Mark R. Lepper. 1985. "The Hostile Media Phenomenon: Biased Perception and Perceptions of Media Bias in Coverage of the Beirut Massacre." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 49 (3): 577-585.

March 5, 2009	Interpersonal & Impersonal Influence: Personal Networks & the Perception of Public Opinion
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Review

Zuckerman, Alan S. 2005. "Returning to the Social Logic of Politics." In *The Social Logic of Politics. Personal Networks as Contexts for Political Behavior*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 3-20.

Mutz, Diana. 1998. "When Does Success Succeed? A Review of the Evidence" and "The Social Psychology of Impersonal Influence from Collective Opinion." In *Impersonal Influence: How Perceptions of Mass Collectives Affect Political Attitudes*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 179-217.

Research

*Huckfeldt, Robert, Paul E. Johnston, and John Sprague. 2005. "Individuals, Dyads, and Networks: Autoregressive Patterns of Political Influence." In *The Social Logic of Politics. Personal Networks as Contexts for Political Behavior*, ed. Alan S. Zuckerman. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 21-48.

*Schmitt-Beck, Rüdiger. 2003. "Mass Communication, Personal Communication and Vote Choice: The Filter Hypothesis of Media Influence in Comparative Perspective." *British Journal of Political Science* 33 (2): 233-259.

Part III - Information Processing & Decision Making
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March 12, 2009	Inside the "Black Box": Cognition, Motivation, & Information Processing
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Deadline: Proposal for Research Proposal due (one page, at beginning of class)

Review

Taber, Charles S. 2003. "Information Processing and Public Opinion." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 433-476.

Granberg, Donald. 1993. "Political Perception." In *Explorations in Political Psychology*, ed. Shanto Iyengar and William J. McGuire. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 70-112.

Research

*Lodge, Milton and Ruth Hamill. 1986. "A Partisan Schema for Political Information Processing." *American Political Science Review* 80 (2): 505-519.

*Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (3): 755-69.

March 19, 2009 Political Decision Making: Voters & Leaders

Review

Lau, Richard R. 2003. "Models of Decision-Making." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 19-59.

Lavine, Howard. 2002. "On-Line Versus Memory-Based Process Models of Political Evaluation." In *Political Psychology*, ed. Kristen Renwick Monroe. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 225-247.

Research

*Lau, Richard R. and David P. Redlawsk. 1997. "Voting Correctly." *American Political Science Review* 91 (3): 585-599.

*Mintz, Alex, Nehemia Geva, Steven B. Redd, and Amy Carnes. 1997. "The Effect of Dynamic and Static Choice Sets on Political Decision Making: An Analysis Using the Decision Board Platform." *American Political Science Review* 91 (3): 553-566.

*Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89 (2): 309-326

Part IV – Affect, Emotions, & Neuroscience

March 26, 2009 Affect, Emotion, & Neuroscience

Note: This final class takes place at a different location: Lange Voorhout 44, Rm. LV0.

Review

Marcus, George E. 2003. "The Psychology of Emotion and Politics." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, ed. David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis. New York: Oxford University Press, 182-221.

McDermott, Rose. 2004. "The Feeling of Rationality: The Meaning of Neuroscientific Advances for Political Science." *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (4): 691 - 706.

Research

*Marcus, George E., and Michael B. MacKuen. 1993. "Anxiety, Enthusiasm, and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement during Presidential Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 672-685.

*Brader, Ted. 2005. "Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions." *American Journal of Political Science*, 49 (2): 388-405.

*Westen, Drew, Pavel S. Blagov, Keith Harenski, Clint Kilts, and Stephan Hamann. 2006. "Neural Bases of Motivated Reasoning: An fMRI Study of Emotional Constraints on Partisan Political Judgment in the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election." *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience* 18 (11): 1947-1958.

April 6, 2009 Research Proposal due

List of Recommended Readings by Topic (Work in Progress)

Basic Introduction

Cottam, Martha, Beth Dietz-Uhler, Elena M. Mastors, and Thomas Preston. 2004. *Introduction to Political Psychology*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Socialization

Alwin, Duane F., Ronald L. Cohen, and Theodore M. Newcomb. 1991. *Political Attitudes Over the Life Span: The Bennington Women after Fifty Years*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Niemi, Richard G., and M. Kent Jennings. 1991. "Issues and Inheritance in the Formation of Party Identification." *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 970-988.

Personality

Simonton, Dean K. 1988. "Presidential Style: Personality, Biography, and Performance." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 55: 928-936.

Winter, David G. 2005. "Things I've Learned About Personality From Studying Political Leaders at a Distance." *Journal of Personality* 73 (June): 557-584.

Martin, John Levi. 2001. "The Authoritarian Personality, 50 Years Later: What Lessons Are There for Political Psychology?" *Political Psychology* 22 (1): 1-26.

Traits

Caprara, Gian, Claudio Barbaranelli, C. Consiglio, L. Picconi, and Phillip G. Zimbardo. 2002. "Personalities of Politicians and Voters: Unique and Synergistic Relationships." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 84 (4): 849-856.

Groups / Stereotypes / Prejudice

Berinsky, Adam J., and Tali Mendelberg. 2005. "The Indirect Effects of Discredited Stereotypes in Judgments of Jewish Leaders." *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (4): 845-864.

Eidelson, R. J., and J. I. Eidelson. 2003. "Dangerous Ideas: Five Beliefs that Propel Groups toward Conflict." *American Psychologist* 58 (February): 182-192.

Genocide

Staub, Ervin. 1999. "The Roots of Evil: Social Conditions, Culture, Personality, and Basic Human Needs." *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 3 (3): 179-192.

Perception & Attributions

Miller, Arthur H., Wattenberg, M.P., and Malanchuk, O. 1986. "Schematic Assessments of Presidential Candidates." *American Political Science Review* 80 (2): 521-540.

Values

Tetlock, Philip E., Ori E. Kristel, S. Beth Elson, Melanie C. Green, and Jennifer S. Lerner. 2000. "The Psychology of the Unthinkable: Taboo Trade-Offs, Forbidden Base Rates, and Heretical Counterfactuals." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 78 (5): 853-870

Jacoby, William G. 2006. "Value Choices and American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (3): 706-723.

Barnea, Marina F., and Shalom H. Schwartz. 1998. "Values and Voting." *Political Psychology* 19 (1): 17-40.

Belief Systems & Ideology

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David E. Apter. New York: The Free Press.

Conover, Pamela J., and Stanley Feldman. 1984. "How People Organize the Political World: A Schematic Model." *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 95-126.

Knowledge

Delli Carpini, Michael X., and Scott Keeter. 2006. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why it Matters*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Attitudes

Krosnick, John A., Charles M. Judd, and Bernd Wittenbrink. 2005. "The Measurement of Attitudes." In *The Handbook of Attitudes*, ed. Dolores Albarracín, Blair T. Johnson, and Mark P. Zanna. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 21-76

Ajzen, Icek, and Martin Fishbein. 2005. "The Influence of Attitudes on Behavior." In *The Handbook of Attitudes*, ed. Dolores Albarracín, Blair T. Johnson, and Mark P. Zanna. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 173-221.

Arcuri, Luciano, Luigi Castelli, Silvia Galdi, Cristina Zogmaister, and Alessandro Amadori. 2008. "Predicting the Vote: Implicit Attitudes as Predictors of the Future Behavior of Decided and Undecided Voters." *Political Psychology* 29 (3): 369-387.

Public Opinion

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Noelle-Neumann, Elisabeth. 1991. "The Theory of Public Opinion: The Concept of the Spiral of Silence." In *Communication Yearbook 14*, ed. James A. Anderson. Newbury Park: Sage, 256-287.

Personal Networks

de Vreese, Claes H., and Hajo G. Boomgaarden. 2006. "Media Message Flows and Interpersonal Communication: The Conditional Nature of Effects on Public Opinion." *Communication Research* 33 (1): 19-37.

Perception of Public Opinion

Price, Vincent, and Natalie J. Stroud. 2006. "Public Attitudes toward Polls: Evidence from the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 18 (4): 393-421.

Media Effects

Iyengar, Shanto, and Donald R. Kinder. 1987. *News That Matters. Television and American Opinion*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Iyengar, Shanto, Mark D. Peters, and Donald R. Kinder. 1982. "Experimental Demonstrations of the 'Not-So-Minimal' Consequences of Television News Programs." *American Political Science Review* 76: 848-858.

Miller, Joanne M., and Jon A. Krosnick. 2000. "News Media Impact on the Ingredients of Presidential Evaluations: Politically Knowledgeable Citizens Are Guided by a Trusted Source." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2): 301-315.

Hwang, Hyunseo, Melissa R. Gotlieb, Seungahn Nah, and Douglas M. McLeod. 2007. "Applying a Cognitive-Processing Model to Presidential Debate Effects: Postdebate News Analysis and Primed Reflection." *Journal of Communication* 57 (March): 40-59.

Dalton, Russell J., Paul A. Beck, and Robert Huckfeldt. 1998. "Partisan Cues and the Media: Information Flows in the 1992 Presidential Election." *American Political Science Review* 92 (March): 111-126.

Aarts, Kees, and Holli A. Semetko. 2003. "The Divided Electorate: Media Use and Political Involvement" *Journal of Politics* 65 (3): 759-784.

Social Cognition

Schacter, Daniel L. 1999. "The Seven Sins of Memory." *American Psychologist* 54 (3): 192-203.

Motivated Reasoning

Lodge, Milton, and Charles S. Taber. 2000. "Three Steps Toward a Theory of Motivated Reasoning." In *Elements of Reason: Cognition, Choice, and the Bounds of Rationality*, ed. Arthur Lupia, Mathew D. McCubbins, and Samuel L. Popkin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 183-213.

Fischle, Mark. 2000. "Mass Response to the Lewinsky Scandal: Motivated Reasoning or Bayesian Updating?" *Political Psychology* 21 (1): 135-159.

Decision Making

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing During Election Campaigns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Herstein, John A. 1981. "Keeping the Voter's Limits in Mind: A Cognitive Process Analysis of Decision Making in Voting." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 40 (May): 843-861.

Quattrone, George A. and Amos Tversky. 1988. "Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice." *American Political Science Review* 82 (3): 719-736.

McDermott, Rose. 2004. "Prospect Theory in Political Science: Gains and Losses From the First Decade." *Political Psychology* 25 (April): 289-312.

Biases & Heuristics

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45 (4): 951-971.

Affect / Emotion

Sullivan, D. G. and Masters, R. D. 1988. "Happy Warriors: Leaders' Facial Displays, Viewers' Emotion, and Political Support." *American Journal of Political Science* 32, 345-368.

Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber, and Gallya Lahav. 2005. "Threat, Anxiety, and Support of Antiterrorism Policies." *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (3): 593-608.

Neuroscience

Amodio, David M., John T. Jost, Sarah L. Master, and Cindy M. Yee. 2007. "Neurocognitive Correlates of Liberalism and Conservatism." *Nature Neuroscience* 10 (10): 1246-1247.