

San José State University
Department of Political Science
POL177/PSYC177: Political Psychology
Fall 2017



Instructor: Dr. Melinda Jackson

Office Location: Clark Hall 471C

Telephone: 408-924-5293

Email: Melinda.Jackson@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:00am-1:00pm and By Appointment

Class Days/Time: Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45pm

Classroom: DMH161

Course Web Page: CANVAS course page accessible for registered students at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO1: Breadth

Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application

Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods

Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: Communication Skills

Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO5: Citizenship

Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course description

How do people think about political issues? What motivates political leaders? How much does personality matter in politics? How do emotions affect our political attitudes? Is racism inevitable? Why does genocide happen? Why do groups turn to terrorism? How can we strive for conflict resolution and reconciliation? If you are interested in exploring these questions – and their answers – then political psychology is for you!

Political psychology is an interdisciplinary field that applies theories and insights from psychology, sociology, communication studies, and other disciplines, to the study of politics. This course will provide an introduction to political psychology, with a focus on several topics including personality and leadership, cognition, social identity, emotions and attitudes, the political psychology of groups, voting, racism and ethnocentrism, ethnic conflict and genocide, nationalism, terrorism, international conflict, and conflict resolution.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major topics in the interdisciplinary field of political psychology.

CLO2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which psychological theories are applied to the study of political phenomena in both U.S. and international contexts.

CLO3. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a particular topic in political psychology based on exploration of the scholarly research literature.

Required Texts

Introduction to Political Psychology, 3rd Edition (2016)

Martha L. Cottam, Elena Mastors, Thomas Preston & Beth Dietz

Taylor & Francis

ISBN 9781848726727

Available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore.

Additional readings will be available through permalinks posted on the course CANVAS website.

Course Web Page

Course materials including the syllabus, assignments, and grades will be posted on the CANVAS page accessible to registered students at: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>

Accommodations

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with AEC (formerly DRC) to establish a record of their disability.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

University Credit Hours Requirement

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

1. Quizzes

There will be a total of 12 online quizzes completed on CANVAS, worth 10 points each. Quizzes will include fact-based questions designed to assess your understanding of the assigned readings and class lectures (CLO1). Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped, for a total of 100 points (25% of your total grade).

2. Homework Assignments

There will be a total of 6 homework assignments designed to assess your understanding of political psychology applications (CLO2), worth 10 points each. Detailed instructions for these assignments will be given in class and posted on the course website. Homework will make up 15% of your total grade.

3. Exams

There will be two exams in this class designed to assess your understanding of political psychology topics and applications (CLO1, CLO2), worth 50 points each. Generally speaking, each exam will cover the material learned in the most recent section of the course. The two exams will make up 25% of your total grade.

4. Final Paper

There will be a final 10 page paper in this class worth 80 points and an oral presentation of the paper worth 20 points, both due at the final exam period. This paper will allow you to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a particular topic in political psychology based on an exploration of the scholarly research literature (CLO3). The final paper and presentation are worth 25% of your grade.

5. Class Participation

Participation – meaning coming to class and engaging in class discussion and activities – will also count for 10% of your total grade. So that you have plenty of opportunities to participate, expect to be “mobilized” (i.e., called on by name) in class.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be calculated as follows. You may keep track of your grade in the class on the CANVAS course website.

	Points	Percentage of total
Quizzes (12 @ 10 points each, lowest 2 dropped)	100	25%
Homework (6 @ 10 points each)	60	15%
Exam 1	50	12.5%
Exam 2	50	12.5%
Final Paper (80) and Oral Presentation (20)	100	25%
Class Participation	40	10%
Total	400	100%

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ = 99-100%	A = 92-98%	A- = 90-91%	B+ = 88-89%
B = 82-87%	B- = 80-81%	C+ = 78-79%	C = 72-77%
C- = 70-71%	D+ = 68-69%	D = 62-67%	D- = 60-61%
F = 59% or less			

Academic Integrity

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

The policy on academic integrity can be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>.

The website for the Office of [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is:

http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

Late papers or assignments will be penalized with lower grades.

No late papers will be accepted after the final exam period.

Missed quizzes and exams may not be made up unless students are excused in advance.

Medical and family emergencies must be documented.

LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES AND DISRUPTIONS OF CLASS IN ANY FORM ARE UNACCEPTABLE. CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AT ALL TIMES IN THE CLASSROOM.

University Policies

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, including academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, etc. You can find all syllabus related university policies and resources information listed on GUP's web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Other Useful Information

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help learning using the library for research.

His name and contact info is: Paul Kauppila
Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2042
paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



ACCESS: Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences

All College of Social Sciences students and interested students are invited to stop by the ACCESS Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the ACCESS Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study.

Location: Clark Hall Room 240

Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialsciences/ACCESS/>

SJSU Counseling & Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling and Psychological Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

POLS177/PSYC177 COURSE SCHEDULE – FALL 2017

Subject to change with fair notice – by class announcement or email

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 Thurs 8/24	Introduction to course What is Political Psychology?	READ SYLLABUS READ Cottam, Masters, Preston & Dietz (Cottam et al.) Ch.1 Complete online plagiarism tutorial and quiz at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm *Follow the link to read the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy when taking this tutorial.*
WEEK 2 Tues 8/29 Thurs 8/31	Personality and Politics NO CLASS MEETING (American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco)	READ Cottam et al. Ch.2 READ Gerber, Huber, Doherty, Dowling & Ha (2010) "Personality and Political Attitudes: Relationships across Issue Domains and Political Contexts," <i>The American Political Science Review</i> , 104(1). QUIZ 1 DUE ON CANVAS BY MIDNIGHT PLAGIARISM QUIZ RESULTS DUE – Submit on CANVAS
WEEK 3 Tues 9/5 Thurs 9/7	Application: Presidential Personality	READ Barber (1992) <i>The Presidential Character</i> , 4 th Edition, Chs. 1-2 (pages 1-47). READ Winter (2011) "Philosopher King or Polarizing Politician? A Personality Profile of Barack Obama," <i>Political Psychology</i> , 32 (6). READ McAdams (2016) "The Mind of Donald Trump," <i>The Atlantic</i> . HOMEWORK 1 DUE ONLINE
WEEK 4 Tues 9/12	Cognition and Social Identity	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 3 (pages 46-62)

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Thurs 9/14	Application: Identity Performance	READ Reicher & Haslam (2017) “Trump’s Appeal: What Psychology Tells Us,” <i>Scientific American</i> . QUIZ 2 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 5 Tues 9/19	Emotions and Attitudes	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 3 (pages 62-78) QUIZ 3 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
Thurs 9/21	Application: Emotions and Voting	READ Marcus & MacKuen (1993) “Anxiety, Enthusiasm, and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement During Presidential Campaigns,” <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 87 (3). HOMEWORK 2 DUE ONLINE
WEEK 6 Tues 9/26	Political Psychology of Groups	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 4
Thurs 9/28	Application: Groupthink	READ Janis (1982) <i>Groupthink</i> , Chs. 1-2 (pages 1-47) QUIZ 4 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 7 Tues 10/3	The Study of Political Leaders	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 5
Thurs 10/5	Political Psychology of Voting	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 6 QUIZ 5 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 8 Tues 10/10	Application: Voter Cognition	READ Lau & Redlawsk (1997) “Voting Correctly,” <i>The American Political Science Review</i> , 91(3). HOMEWORK 3 DUE ONLINE

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WEEK 8 cont. Thurs 10/12	Political Psychology of Media in Politics	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 7 QUIZ 6 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 9 Tues 10/24	EXAM 1	Bring large green book and pen
Thurs 10/26	Political Psychology of Race	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 8 In-Class Video: True Colors QUIZ 7 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 10 Tues 10/31	Application: Unconscious Bias	READ Gilliam & Iyengar (2000) "Prime Suspects: The Influence of Local Television News on the Viewing Public," <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 44 (3). LISTEN to Hidden Brain Podcast "In the Air We Breathe," June 5, 2017, http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510308/hidden-brain HOMEWORK 4 DUE ONLINE
Thurs 11/1	Application: Right-Wing Authoritarianism	READ Altemeyer (1996). <i>The Authoritarian Specter</i> , Chs. 1-2, 10-11. QUIZ 8 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 11 Tues 11/7	Application: Radical White Racists	In-Class Video: Blood in the Face Class Discussion
Thurs 11/9	Ethnic Conflict and Genocide	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 9 QUIZ 9 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS

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DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 12 Tues 11/14	Application: Rescuers, Bystanders, and Nazis during the Holocaust	READ Monroe (2008) “Cracking the Code of Genocide: The Moral Psychology of Rescuers, Bystanders, and Nazis during the Holocaust,” <i>Political Psychology</i> , 29 (5). HOMEWORK 5 DUE ONLINE
Thurs 11/16	Political Psychology of Nationalism	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 10 QUIZ 10 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 13 Tues 11/21	Political Psychology of Terrorism	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 12 QUIZ 11 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS FINAL PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE ONLINE
Thurs 11/23	NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	
WEEK 14 Tues 11/28	Application: Suicide Terrorism	READ Kruglanski, Chen, Dechesne, Fishman & Orehek (2009) “Fully Committed: Suicide Bombers’ Motivation and the Quest for Personal Significance,” <i>Political Psychology</i> , 30(3). HOMEWORK 6 DUE ONLINE
Thurs 11/30	Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation	READ Cottam et al. Ch. 14 QUIZ 12 DUE ON CANVAS BEFORE CLASS
WEEK 15 Tues 12/5	Application: Healing after Genocide	READ Staub (2006) “Reconciliation after Genocide, Mass Killing, or Intractable Conflict: Understanding the Roots of Violence, Psychological Recovery, and Steps toward a General Theory,” <i>Political Psychology</i> , 27 (6).

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DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Thurs 12/7	EXAM 2	Bring large blue book and pen
WEEK 16 Tues 12/19 12:15-2:30pm	FINAL EXAM PERIOD	Final Paper DUE ON CANVAS Oral Presentation DUE IN CLASS