POLS 3375
Political Psychology
Fall 2024

Instructor:	Dr. April A. Johnson
Class Time:	Mon/Wed 3:30pm - 4:45pm
Class Location:	Social Sciences Building, Room 1020
Office Hours:	Mon/Wed 1:00pm-2:00pm
Office Location:	Social Sciences Building, Room 5056
E-Mail:	ajohn551@kennesaw.edu (preferred)
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Course Description

What personality traits differentiate liberals from conservatives? Why do people rationalize erroneous claims from political authority figures? Does racial prejudice factor into vote choice? This course explores how individual-level psychological processes relate to aggregate-level political behavior. We examine various aspects of human psychology, including personality, motivation, information processing, emotions, and intergroup dynamics. Contemporary political events are then viewed through these lenses, as we consider how underlying psychological mechanisms and processes influence real-world political attitudes and decision-making. The format of this class is exploratory in nature, as we devote a significant amount of time to discussing and understanding current political and psychological phenomena. Critical thinking and vibrant in-class discussions are essential to the structure of this course (3 credit hours). *Prerequisites: POLS 1101 American Government*

Learning Objectives

At the end of this semester students should have a general understanding of:
1) Assorted explanations of human behavior, such as nature vs. nurture, systematic vs. heuristic processing, and implicit vs. explicit biases
2) Individual-level processes that factor into political decision-making and behavior
3) Experimental methodology as a tool for political science

Required Texts

1) Houghton, David Patrick. 2014. *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals, and Cases, 2nd Edition*. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415833820

***Note: Our textbook in this course is a DAY ONE ACCESS item. By default, these materials will be accessible to you on the first day of classes via D2L Brightspace. *The cost of these materials will be billed to your student account; therefore, you do not need to purchase the textbook elsewhere.* You will receive an email from no-reply@verbasoftware.com one week before classes start, containing information on how much your materials are as well as how to Opt-Out of this program. You will receive subsequent emails with this information on the first day of class and the day before to opt out. By Opting-Out, you will be refunded and you will lose access to these digital materials and must purchase them elsewhere.

2) In addition to the required textbook listed above, we will be referencing <u>many</u> supplemental news stories and journal articles. These supplemental, required readings are posted within each module in D2L. See the course schedule for more details

Evaluation of Course Objectives

Quizzes: There will be six quizzes administered during class time. For the most part quiz questions will come from previous readings/lectures, however some questions may reference the reading assigned for that day (i.e., you must read *before* coming to class). There will be <u>no</u> makeup quizzes allowed under any circumstances, though the lowest grade of the six quizzes will be dropped.

Papers: Each student will be required to write one 10-page midterm paper and one 10-page final paper in which they analyze and evaluate the concepts we have covered. Instructions for these written assignments will be distributed roughly three weeks before each is due. Papers should be uploaded to the appropriate Dropbox in D2L by the deadline listed. Dropboxes may be accessed through the Assignments tab in D2L.

Class Leader: At the beginning of the semester, each student will sign up for one class period in which they will serve as Class Leader. After thoroughly reading the required material for that day, Leaders will select <u>two</u> current news articles that relate to the topic. In addition to discussing these news articles in class, students will write a 4-5 page paper that summarizes the key terms, concepts, and theories within that day's readings and relates these concepts to their selected news articles. Detailed expectations and a grading rubric for this assignment can be found in D2L.

Attendance/Participation/Professionalism: Students are given <u>one</u> excused absence per semester, no questions asked. In general, I expect students to come to each class, to be attentive, and to be engaged in both lectures and discussion. *Please note that showing up late and/or leaving early is disruptive to the classroom flow (meaning: don't do it!).*
   Attending class does not equate to participating in it. Participation includes asking questions about the readings (write down questions as you read!), answering questions posed by the instructor, and responding to the comments made by your classmates. I encourage all students to think critically and to share their insights and inquiries with the class.
   In addition to attendance and participation, students will be assessed on the professionalism with which they conduct themselves. Professionalism means that students are focused on course material, accountable for their own learning, and respectful in their communication both inside and outside of the classroom. Incivilities, such as texting, chatting, or excessive classroom disruptions, will lower your grade in this course.

Readings: There is no getting around it- you MUST read for this course! Because lectures follow a seminar-like format, it is *your* thoughts, perspectives, and reactions to the readings that fuel the course. As such, students should come to class familiar with the readings for that day and prepared for an energetic discussion. There will be a *significant* amount of required readings posted on D2L, some of which come from scholarly journals. Although these articles may be dense and methodologically complex students should aim to comprehend the overall purpose of the article, the theoretical rationale, and the general way in which researchers came to their conclusions.

Distribution of Grades

Quizzes 20% (5 total worth 4% each)   Class Leader 25%
Midterm Paper 20%   Attendance/Participation/Professionalism 15%
Final Paper 20%

Grading Scale

A	90-100	C	70-79	F	59 or below
B	80-89	D	60-69		

Policy for Missed or Late Work

Missing/late work will be accepted only under extenuating circumstances and with proper (medical) documentation. Students will generally not be allowed to make up missing coursework due to transportation, weather, travel, family and/or personal issues, though certain exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Religious Holidays

Students who wish to observe religious holidays must notify the instructor of the date(s) they will be absent within the first week of class. The instructor will make every reasonable effort to honor the request and not penalize the student for missing class and/or assignments. If an examination or assignment is due during the absence the instructor will give the student an opportunity to complete the assessment at an earlier date.

Accessibility and Disability Policy

KSU provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students who require specific accommodations (e.g., extra time on exams, designated note takers, visual aids, etc.) to successfully complete this course are welcome! However, in order for the instructor to recognize these accommodations it is the responsibility of the student to officially document their disabilities with the office of Student Disability Services. *Note: Students seeking accommodations should do so within the first week of the semester, as testing and documentation often takes time.* Please visit the Student Disability Services website at sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Electronic Communication

Communication for this course will be sent to your official university email address. It is your responsibility to read the email in your official university email account and to do so in a timely manner. ***It is recommended that students log into the course in D2L and check their KSU email at least three times per week***. If you choose to forward your official university email to another off-campus account, faculty are *not responsible* for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts.

The Duo Authentication System

Duo is a two-factor authentication solution supporting the security of personal and university data for campus community members. Two-factor authentication is a method of confirming your identity using two separate elements: 1) Something you know (your NetID password), and 2) something you have (your registered mobile device or landline phone). Duo provides an extra layer of security for your NetID, designed so that no one but you can access your account, even if your password becomes compromised. You will be prompted to authenticate through Duo each time you log-in to Duo compatible services. The service provides multiple options for taking advantage of this additional authentication method, including push notifications through a smartphone app, short codes delivered through the app, or phone calls. For more information visit: https://uits.kennesaw.edu/duo/index.php.

Contacting the Instructor

If a student has questions about the material, technical issues in accessing course elements on D2L, or needs to contact the instructor for any other reason, please email me at ajohn551@kennesaw.edu. All emails will get a response within three days (72 hours). If for any reason the instructor will be unavailable on certain days the class will be notified in advance.

Grading Response Times

Quizzes and papers will be graded within one week (7 days) of the submission deadline. Attendance grades will be updated approximately halfway through the semester.

AI Use Prohibited

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this course, either in part or in full. When completing assignments students are expected to submit 100% original work, unless otherwise indicated by using proper citations and/or quotation marks. Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you, or that was created or assisted by an AI generative tool, is cheating and constitutes a violation of the KSU Code of Academic Integrity. AI generated assignments, either in part or in full, will receive a zero.

Writing Assistance

The KSU Writing Center helps students in all disciplines improve their written work. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. Appointments with the Writing Center are even available remotely (i.e., online). For more information or to make an appointment, visit *www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter*, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Minimum Technical Skills Needed

You will need a high-speed internet connection, access to your KSU email, and knowledge of how to use Desire2Learn (D2L). Developing an understanding of the D2L discussion board functions, the assignment functions (in order to turn in papers), and the content tabs (to access instructions, required readings, etc.)

will be vital. It is recommended that you access D2L from a desktop computer, not a cell phone, iPad, etc. In order to listen to videos and/or lectures you will need speakers/headphones and a compatible browser. You will also need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and the ability to open PDF files. Note that all computers on KSU's main campus satisfy these requirements.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic honesty and adherence to KSU's Student Codes of Conduct is expected at all times. Any student found to have engaged in academic misconduct such as plagiarism, collusion, or submitting non-original work is subject to disciplinary sanctions from the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. **If I suspect that a student has committed plagiarism, even if it is their first time, the student will receive a zero on the assignment and an incident report will be filed with the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.** For more information about plagiarism and prevention go to www.plagiarism.org. To view the Kennesaw State University Student Codes of Conduct visit https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Special Statements on COVID-19

Course Delivery
     KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction.

COVID-19 Illness
     If you are feeling ill, please stay home and contact your health professional. In addition, please email your instructor to say you are missing class due to illness. Signs of COVID-19 illness include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Cough
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell

     COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool in "Protecting the Nest." If you have not already, you are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated immediately to advance the health and safety of our campus community. As an enrolled KSU student, you are eligible to receive the vaccine on campus. Please call (470) 578-6644 to schedule your vaccination appointment or you may walk into one of our student health clinics. For more information regarding COVID-19 (including testing, vaccines, extended illness procedures and accommodations), see KSU's official Covid-19 website.

Face Coverings
     Based on guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG), masks are encouraged based on individual preference and assessment of personal risk. Disposable face coverings can be picked up at the Office of Emergency Management at Chastain Pointe on the Kennesaw campus and Norton Hall Police Precinct on the Marietta campus. Please email oem@kennesaw.edu if you have questions.

Technical Support

Students are encouraged to seek out resources available to them at Kennesaw State if they are experiencing any technical difficulties that the instructor is not able to solve. You can find this support at the following places:

- Student Technology Services
  - https://uits.kennesaw.edu/
  - Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
- Desire2Learn (D2L) Support
  - Training schedule, booklets, and videos available at https://uits.kennesaw.edu/support/d2ltraining.php
- Respondus Lockdown browser
  - https://chss.kennesaw.edu/ode/tutorials/Syllabus_LockDownBrowser.pdf

Academic Support Links

KSU offers many academic support resources including Academic Tutoring, Student Success Services, ESL Support, Writing Center, Math Lab, and Supplemental Instruction. Please look at the following link for more information on any of these resources: https://www.kennesaw.edu/currentstudents.php.

Student Support Services

KSU has many student support services geared particularly toward online students that can be found at: https://ols.kennesaw.edu/

KSU Financial Aid Office: The Office of Student Financial Aid provides assistance for students to help them meet the costs of obtaining a Kennesaw State University education. https://financialaid.kennesaw.edu/index.php

KSU Office of the Registrar: The Office of the Registrar supports academic life at Kennesaw State University, from class registration to graduation and beyond. Explore this site to learn more about our core mission and find resources for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. https://registrar.kennesaw.edu/index.php

KSU Bursar's office: The Bursar's Office provides the following services for KSU students:
- Acceptance of student fee payments
- Disbursements of Financial Aid balance of awards
- Administration of private scholarship funds and funds on deposit accounts
- Administration of Corporate and Third-Party Contracts
- Collection of Perkins Loans/KSU Emergency Loan
https://fiscalservices.kennesaw.edu/bursar/index.php

Privacy Policies/Accessibility Statements of External Course Tools:

https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement
https://www.youtube.com/static?&template=privacy_guidelines
http://www.adobe.com/privacy/policy.html

Miscellaneous University Policies

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement   Ethics Statement
Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA)   Sexual Harassment Statement
Campus Carry Information   University – Student Rights Statement

Enrollment Status Statement

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend or correct this course syllabus as necessary.

Course Schedule

All supplemental readings are posted in D2L
To view academic deadlines, including add/drop dates, please visit http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/

Date	Topic	Required Readings
Mon 8/12	Introduction to Political Psychology	➢ Houghton Chapter 2
Wed 8/14	*No Class*	---
Mon 8/19	Experimental Methods in Political Science	➢ Experiments
Wed 8/21	Nature vs. Nurture	➢ Houghton Chapters 1 and 3
Mon 8/26	Evolutionary Approaches	➢ Houghton Chapter 11 ➢ Your Genes Tell You How to Vote ➢ Video: How Are Conservative And Liberal Brains Different? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4nMzD1OmDE

Wed 8/28	Personality Theories **Quiz 1**	➢ Big Five Personality Traits and Political Orientation: An Inquiry into Political Beliefs ➢ The Big Five Personality Traits & what they mean for your Political Views ➢ Take the Big 5 test: https://www.truity.com/view/tests/big-five-personality
Mon 9/2	*Labor Day Holiday No Class*	---
Wed 9/4	*No Class*	---
Mon 9/9	Political Leadership	➢ Houghton Chapter 7 ➢ Video: The Personality Profile of 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden ➢ The Personality Profile and Leadership Style of U.S. President Donald J. Trump in Office
Wed 9/11	The Authoritarian Personality	➢ The Rise of American Authoritarianism ➢ Left-wing authoritarians share key psychological traits with far right, Emory study finds ➢ Take the RWA test: http://personality-testing.info/tests/RWAS/
Mon 9/16	Social Conformity	➢ Houghton Chapters 4 and 5 ➢ How Social Pressure Increases Voter Turnout: Evidence From A Large-scale Field Experiment ➢ Social pressure, altruism, free-riding, and non-compliance in mask wearing by U.S. residents in response to COVID-19 pandemic (Bir and Widmar)
Wed 9/18	Groupthink **Quiz 2**	➢ Houghton Chapter 6
Mon 9/23	Worldviews and Belief Systems	➢ The Worldview Problem for American Politics (Lakoff) ➢ When It Comes To Our Politics, Family Matters ➢ Does the American Electorate Have Daddy Issues? (Zak) ➢ Introduction of *Prius or Pickup?* (Hetherington and Weiler)
Wed 9/25	Moral Foundations	➢ How Do Your Morals Shape Your Politics? ➢ Video: Jonathan Haidt's The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives: https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind
Mon 9/30	Cognitive Structure and Functions	➢ The Relationship Between Social-Cultural Attitudes and Behavioral Measures of Cognitive Style (Van Hiel, Onraet, and De Pauw)

		➢ Study: Liberals, Conservatives See Mixed-Race People Differently (Jacobs) ➢ Take the Intolerance of Ambiguity Test (See Appendix in Lauriola et al.)
Wed 10/2	Information Processing **Quiz 3**	➢ Houghton Chapter 9 ➢ Autopilot vs. Intentional System: The Rider and the Elephant (Tsipursky)
Mon 10/7	Emotions in Politics	➢ Houghton Chapter 10 ➢ The Use and Consequences of Emotions in Politics (Searles and Ridout) (+*Watch the embedded videos)*
Wed 10/9	Behavioral Economics	➢ An Introduction to Behavioral Economics (Samson) ➢ Video: Are We in Control of Our Own Decisions? https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_asks_are_we_in_control_of_our_own_decisions#t-1000709
Mon 10/14	*No Class* **Midterm Paper Due by 11:59pm**	---
Wed 10/16	Explorations in Voting Behavior	➢ Houghton Chapter 12 ➢ Why Do People Vote? A Psychological Analysis of the Causes of Voter Turnout (Harder and Krosnick) ➢ Contextual Priming: Where People Vote Affects How They Vote (Berger, Meredith, and Wheeler)
Mon 10/21	Identity Politics **Quiz 4**	➢ Social Identity Theory (McLeod) ➢ Is Contemporary Partisanship "Identity All the Way Down"? (Federico) Quiz: Let Us Predict Whether You're a Democrat or a Republican https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/08/opinion/sunday/party-polarization-quiz.html
Wed 10/23	The Psychology of Terrorism	➢ Houghton Chapter 16 ➢ How the Fear of Death Makes People More Right-Wing (Azarian 2017)
Mon 10/28	Us vs. Them	➢ Houghton Chapter 14 ➢ Allport's Intergroup Contact Hypothesis: Its History and Influence (Nickerson) ➢ See No Spanish: Language, Local Context, and Attitudes Toward Immigration (Hopkins, Tran, and Williamson)

Wed 10/30	Racial Prejudice	➢ Houghton Chapter 15 ➢ Racial attitudes and the 2024 election ➢ Study: Restrictive voting laws more prevalent in Republican-controlled states with diverse populations
Mon 11/4	Implicit Attitudes **Quiz 5**	➢ Implicit Attitude (Nosek and Banaji) ➢ The Bias Beneath: Two Decades of Measuring Implicit Associations (Sleek) ➢ Take an Implicit Attitude Test: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html
Wed 11/6	Automaticity and Bias	➢ How Unconscious Sexism Could Help Explain Trump's Win ➢ Don't Talk about Implicit Bias Without Talking about Structural Racism ➢ Video: What Everyone Gets Wrong About Implicit Bias Trainings https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Li656r-AI0&ab_channel=ScienceInsider
Mon 11/11	Motivated Reasoning	➢ Motivated Reasoning and Public Opinion (Strickland, Taber, and Lodge) ➢ What is Motivated Reasoning? How Does It Work? (Mooney) ➢ The Science of Why We Don't Believe Science (Mooney)
Wed 11/13	*No Class*	---
Mon 11/18	Political Communication	➢ Houghton Chapter 13 ➢ Democrats and Republicans speak different languages — and it helps explain why we're so divided ➢ Framing and Political Decision Making: An Overview
Wed 11/20	The Roots of Conspiratorial Thinking	➢ Why People Believe in Conspiracy Theories ➢ 5 Reasons Why Conspiracy Theories Thrive In Politics ➢ The psychological and political correlates of conspiracy theory beliefs
Mon 11/25	*Thanksgiving Holiday No Class*	---
Wed 11/27	*Thanksgiving Holiday No Class*	---
Mon 12/2	So What? **Quiz 6**	➢ Readings TBA
Final Paper Due **Friday December 6, 2024** **By 11:59pm**		