

**George Washington University**  
**Political Psychology**  
Fall 2005

Professor Sturman

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Office: 2125 G Street. Room 101C. Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-noon, and by appointment. Note: I will also be available in the half hour before and after class meetings.

Home phone: (703) 527-3221 (before 10 p.m., please)

**Readings:**

Iyengar, S. and McGuire, W. J. (editors). (1995). *Explorations in Political Psychology*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Jost, J. T. and Sidanius, J. (editors). (2004). *Political Psychology: Key Readings*. New York: Psychology Press.

**Course Description:** Political psychology is the application of psychological theories, concepts, and research to topics in politics. This course examines how what psychologists know about individuals, groups, and organizations shape politics. Topics covered include political leadership, ideology and values, evaluation of political candidates, decision-making, and political violence and terrorism.

**Course Requirements:**

**Two short papers:** Students will complete two short (approximately 4 pages) papers, which draw on, and require application of, course concepts. Papers will not require research or reading beyond the scope of course assignments. The papers will each comprise 25 percent of the semester grade. More specific guidelines for the papers will be handed out early in the semester.

**Final paper:** A longer (8-10 page) paper, requiring some outside research, is due at the end of the semester. Suggested topics will be distributed early in the semester, though students may choose to write on another topic, by prior arrangement with the instructor. The final paper is worth 50 percent of the semester grade.

**Class attendance and discussion leading:** Class attendance and participation are integral aspects of the course and will be used as “tie-breakers” in determining final semester grades. In addition, each week, a student or students will be assigned to help lead discussion during the second hour our class meeting. The schedule of discussion leaders and guidelines for leading will be set at the beginning of the semester.

## Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
9/6	Introduction; Political psychology theory and research methods	Jost and Sidanius (PP) Iyengar (EPP)
9/13	Political leadership	Winter (PP)
9/20	Attitudes/Values/Ideology	Converse (PP) Brown (PP)
9/27	Authoritarianism	Doty, Peterson, and Winter (PP) Altemeyer (PP)
10/4	Political cognition	Wyer and Ottati (EPP)
10/11	Integrative complexity	Tetlock (PP) <b>Paper 1 due</b>
10/18	Candidate evaluation/cognition	Lodge and Stroh (EPP)
10/25	Candidate evaluation/emotion	Marcus and MacKuen (PP) Masters and Sullivan (EPP)
11/1	Political persuasion	Iyengar, Peters, and Kinder (PP) Krosnick and Kinder (PP)
11/8	Social identity	Tajfel and Turner (PP) <b>Paper 2 due</b>
11/15	Prejudice and ethnocentrism	Sidanius (EPP) Jost and Banaji (PP)
11/22	Political group processes	Darley (PP)
11/29	Political violence and terrorism	Crenshaw (PP)
12/6	Wrap up and paper meetings	

**Final paper due on Friday, December 9**