

Identification	Subject	Political psychology, PSYC410, 3KU (6 AKTS)
	Department	Psychology
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Bachelor
	Term	Fall Semester 2026
	Instructor	Aliyeva Gulshan Aliesker
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	Classroom/hours	Neftchilar campus
	Consultations	After classes
Prerequisites	-	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Mandatory	
Textbooks and course materials	Primary Reading 1. Cottam, M. L., Mastors, E., & Preston, T. (2022). Introduction to political psychology (4th ed.). Routledge. 2. Huddy, L., Sears, D. O., Levy, J. S., & Jerit, J. (Eds.). (2023). The Oxford handbook of political psychology (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press. 3. Osborne, D., & Sibley, C. G. (Eds.). (2022). The Cambridge handbook of political psychology. Cambridge University Press. Additional Reading 1. Houghton, D. P. (2026). Political psychology: Situations, individuals, and cases (3rd ed.). Routledge. 2. Jost, J. T., & Sidanius, J. (Eds.). (2004). Political psychology: Key readings. Psychology Press.	
Course description	Political Psychology examines the psychological processes underlying political attitudes, judgments, identities, and behavior. The course addresses the interaction between individual psychological characteristics and broader political and social contexts. Major topics include personality and political behavior, cognition and political decision-making, emotions and attitudes, social identity, group processes, gender, race and ethnicity, nationalism, public opinion, political ideology, voting behavior, media influence, and political tolerance. The course also considers how group membership, beliefs, values, and social context shape political perceptions and collective behavior. Political phenomena are examined through psychological theories and empirical research, with attention to individual differences, intergroup relations, political conflict, national identity, and contemporary political behavior.	

Course objectives	This course will also briefly discuss political process and human behavior. The course will depict visual aids that may be graphic (gore, gruesome) in nature to demonstrate various crimes (i.e., rape, homicide, mutilation, and so forth) that a forensic psychologist/psychiatrist would encounter with their job function. During the course, we will discuss evolutionary basis of political ideology, the structure, prevalence and nature of mass belief systems, the psychology of public opinion, emotions and political process, diversity problem of political psychology and national identity, patriotism, and nationalism.		
Learning Outcomes	1. Define the scope of political psychology and explain its major theoretical foundations. 2. Compare psychological approaches used to explain political attitudes and behavior. 3. Analyze how personality, beliefs, values, emotions, and cognitive processes influence political judgments and decisions. 4. Apply social identity and group-process theories to examples of political group behavior and intergroup conflict. 5. Examine the psychological mechanisms associated with prejudice, ethnicity, gender, nationalism, and political identity. 6. Interpret voting behavior, public opinion, ideology, and media influence using relevant political psychology concepts. 7. Analyze a political case or event by identifying the psychological processes that may contribute to individual or collective behavior. 8. Evaluate competing explanations of political behavior using relevant theoretical arguments and research evidence. 9. Develop and present an evidence-based analysis of a selected political psychology topic.		
Teaching methods	Lecture		+
	Group discussion		+
	Classroom activity		+
	Cases analyzing		+
Evaluation Criteria	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm exam	Week 8	30
	Activity		10
	Individual work		15
	Final exam	January	35
	Attendance		10
	Total		100
Class Policy	Participation To be prepared to classes, be active during class, ask questions about the topic in discussions and make logical comments according to the topic. At this time, it is important to respect the opinions of other group members, not to divide their words, listen carefully, ask questions and make comments.		

Individual work and presentation

Individual work and presentation should make about class topics. Presentations should be consistent with interactive learning methods and should be research-based. During the presentation, details such as conveying information, the content of the presentation, the organization of the presentation, capturing the audience, referring to recent literature will be taken into consideration. Presentations can be presented as individual work.

Rules and policy

Rules:

1. Each lesson requires a creative approach and activity.
2. During the lesson, it is forbidden to disrupt the lesson process, make unethical actions, conduct inappropriate and unauthorized discussions, use a mobile phone, listening device and radio, and engage in other activities not related to that lesson.
3. Attendance.
4. Participation of students in all classes is important. If the student is unable to attend classes due to certain reasons (illness, family situation, etc.), then he should inform the dean of the faculty about this. A student who does not attend more than 25% of the total hours of study in the subject is not allowed to take the exam.
5. Lateness to class and other class violations.

Marking criteria

Individual Work Grading Criteria and Total Points

Each student's individual presentation will be evaluated based on three main categories: Organization, Content, and Presentation. The maximum total for this component is 15 points.

Organization (5 points):

The presentation should be well-organized and appropriate for the topic and audience. Information must be presented in a logical sequence, and relevant references should be properly included.

Content (5 points):

The introduction must be engaging and effectively outline the problem, establishing a clear framework for the rest of the presentation. The content should be accurate, relevant, and aligned with the overall purpose. A clear and well-structured conclusion summarizing the research is expected.

Presentation (5 points):

The presenter should maintain appropriate eye contact with the audience and use natural gestures and movement. The voice must be clear and audible, with good language skills and correct pronunciation. Visual aids should be well-prepared, informative, and not distracting. The presentation should fall within the assigned time limit, and the overall delivery must be effective and engaging.

AI rules- Political claims, research findings, quotations, statistics, and references produced by AI must be independently verified before they are included in the presentation. AI-generated interpretations should not substitute for the student's own evaluation of political psychology theories or evidence.

The student is expected to explain and defend the psychological reasoning behind the presentation independently. References that cannot be located or verified will not be accepted as academic sources.

Class Participation (10 Points of Final Grade)

Class participation is an essential part of the course. Students are expected to come to

class well-prepared, having completed the assigned readings and ready to engage in meaningful discussions. Participation accounts for 10 points of the final grade and will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 9–10 Points: Demonstrates excellent preparation by analyzing readings deeply and connecting them to class discussions. Offers thoughtful analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of ideas. Contributes significantly to discussions by building arguments, responding thoughtfully to peers, and suggesting alternative approaches relevant to the local context. Shows consistent and highly active involvement. 7–8 Points: Shows good preparation, demonstrates a clear understanding of the readings, and offers interpretations beyond basic facts. Contributes regularly to discussions, responds to others, poses thoughtful questions, and sometimes offers alternative views. Demonstrates consistent involvement throughout the course. 5–6 Points: Demonstrates an adequate level of preparation, showing understanding of basic facts but with little analysis. Contribution to discussions is moderate and not particularly reflective. Participates occasionally without being prompted. 1–4 Points: Student is present but contributes little or not at all. May be passive or minimally engaged, but not disruptive. 0 Points: Student is frequently absent or their behavior disrupts the class. This includes being consistently late, leaving the room multiple times during class, using phones or devices for non-class-related activities, or violating agreed-upon participation norms.			
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	19.09.2026	Introduction to political psychology. What is political psychology? Foundation of political psychology.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London, 2004 Pp. 1-13 The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology. Pp/3-21
2	26.09.2026	Personality and politics. Theories and approaches to studying personality.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London, 2004 Pp. 13-34
3	03.10.2026	Cognition, social identity, emotions and attitudes in political psychology. Information process, social identity.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London, 2004

		Political decision-making process.	Pp. 37-59 The Oxford handbook of political psychology Chapter 5.
4	10.10.2026	Cognition, social identity, emotions and attitudes in political psychology. Emotions and political psychology	The Oxford handbook of political psychology Chapter 6. page 165-174
5	17.10.2026	The political psychology of groups. The definition of the groups. Group structure, formation and development.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 63-70
6	24.10.2026	The political psychology of groups. Influence in group. Social facilitation and inhibition	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 70-78
7	31.10.2026	The political psychology of groups. Group decision making process. Conflict in groups.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 78-94
8		Midterm exam	
9	07.11.2026	The political psychology gender, race and ethnicity	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 153-170
10	14.11.2026	The political psychology gender, race and ethnicity Ethnic conflict, resolving racial and ethnic conflicts.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 170-187

11	21.11.2026	The political psychology of nationalism. Case illustration of nationalism	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 191-217
12	28.11.2026	The political psychology of nationalism. Cause of nationalistic behavior. Conflict solution.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 217-221
13	05.12.2026	Voting, role of the media and tolerance in political psychology. Belief, value and ideology.	Marta Cottam, Beth Uhler, Elena Mastrors, Thomas Preston. "Introduction to political Psychology". London,2004 Pp. 125-149
14	12.12.2026	Reflection session	
15	19.12.2026	Group presentations, and exam discussion	
16		Final Exam	