

Identification	Subject	PSIR 401– Political Psychology - 3KU /6ECTS credits		
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy		
	Program	Undergraduate		
	Term	Autumn, 2026		
	Instructor	Rauf Qaragözov (Garagozov)		
	E-mail:	rauf.garagozov@khazar.org		
	Phone:			
	Classroom/hours			
	Office hours	By appointment		
Prerequisites	No			
Language	English			
Compulsory/Elective	Required			
Required textbooks and course materials	Core Textbook: • Houghton, D.P. 2015. <i>Political Psychology. Situations, Individuals, and Cases</i>. 2d ed. New York: Routledge. Supplementary sources: • Lakoff, G. 2009. <i>The Political Mind: A Cognitive Scientist’s Guide to Your Brain and Its Politics</i>. New York. Penguin Group. • Garagozov, R.R. 2015. <i>Collective Memory: How representations about the past are created, preserved and reproduced</i>. New York: Nova Publishers.			
Course outline	This course offers a broad overview of political psychology at the undergraduate level. The basic objectives of the course are the following: a) providing insights into leading division forces within the psychological study that shape political behavior: the situations in which individuals find themselves, and the internal psychological makeup—beliefs, values, and so on; b) using such key explanatory mechanisms as behaviorism, obedience, personality, groupthink, cognition, affect, emotion, and neuroscience to explore topics ranging from voting behavior and racism to terrorism and international relations. Finally, this course will provide students with the conceptual foundation they need to make sense of the rapidly changing and increasingly important field of political psychology.			
Course objectives	Objectives • This course is aimed to give the students the general knowledge about concepts of political psychology with concentration on political behavior. Specific Objectives of the Course • To become more knowledgeable about the impact of political, social and cultural situations along with personality traits, social attitudes, cultural memories, beliefs and dispositions on political behavior and decision making. • To become familiar with the various psychological and political theories describing political leadership and mass movements. • To explore the political psychology of race and ethnicity. • To examine the impact of political psychology as it related to broader international concerns such as nationalism, political extremism, terrorism and war			
Learning outcomes	By the end of the course the students should be able: • To demonstrate understanding of major theories and research in political psychology and how political psychology ties into and extends upon insights from other subfields of psychology. • To produce a paper, formatted according to the conventions of the field, conveying a novel analysis of existing intergroup/interstate conflicts as related to political situations, political attitudes and/or behavior.			
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)	

	Midterm Exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	Class Attendance	Throughout the semester	5
	Project (Essay)	Will be set individually	15
	Presentation/Group Discussion	23.09.2026-16.12.2026	10
	Final Exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	40
	Total		100
Policy	Course requirements: The main requirements for this class are: attendance at lectures and seminars, active and meaningful participation in seminars (Q-A sessions) upon reading assigned materials before class meetings along with presentations on given topic and writing essays. Reading materials will be provided by the lecturer. Warning: unexcused absence, passive class participation and plagiarism will result in 'failed' assessment. Usage of devices in a responsible manner is acceptable, however usage of the device in a manner that is distracting to others (using email or social media, watching movies, playing games) will not be acceptable. AI Policy: This policy governs the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in coursework and research. It applies to undergraduate students and academic researchers, ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability. GAI may support learning and research by helping organize ideas, checking grammar, or assisting with planning. However, it must never replace original analysis, creativity, or independent thinking. All uses of GAI must be disclosed clearly in assignments, projects, theses, and publications. Example: “ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2025) was used for language editing. All ideas and conclusions are my own.” Students may use GAI only as a supportive tool, with a maximum of twenty-five percent of text-based assignments. Its use is strictly prohibited in exams, quizzes, and graded in-class assessments. Researchers may use GAI for structuring, editing, and idea generation, but not for writing entire papers, fabricating references, or producing false data. Accuracy must always be verified. Violations include hidden or unauthorized use, failure to disclose, plagiarism, or data falsification. Penalties may involve warnings, resubmission, grade reduction, or disciplinary action. Instructors and supervisors must specify permitted levels of GAI use in syllabi or research guidelines. GAI is allowed only as a supportive tool. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their work.		
	Tentative Schedule		
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	16.09.2026	Introduction to the Course: 1)What is Political Psychology; 2)Syllabus and its Requirements	Political Psychology, Chapter 1

2	23.09.2026	<i>A Brief History of the Discipline</i>	Political Psychology, Chapter 2
3	30.09.2026	<i>Behaviorism and Human Freedom</i>	Introduction to Political Psychology, Chapter 3
4	07.10.2026	Group Decision Making	Political Psychology, Chapter 6
5	14.10.2026	Psychobiography	Political Psychology, Chapter 7
6	21.10.2026	Personality and Beliefs	Political Psychology, Chapter 8
7	28.10.2026	Cognition	Political Psychology, Chapter 9
8	04.11.2026	Midterm Exam	
9	11.11.2026	Affect and Emotion	Political Psychology, Chapter 10
10	18.11.2026	Neuroscience	Political Psychology, Chapter 11
11	25.11.2026	The Psychology of Voting Behavior	Political Psychology, Chapter 12
12	02.12.2026	The Political Psychology of Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Genocide	Political Psychology, Chapter 13
13	09.12.2026	The Psychology of Racism and Political Intolerance	Political Psychology, Chapter 14
14	16.12.2026	The Psychology of Terrorism	Political Psychology, Chapter 15
15	23.12.2026	The Psychology of International Relations	Political Psychology, Chapter 16
	TBA	Final Exam	

This syllabus is a guide for the course and any modifications to it will be announced in advance.