

Identification	Subject	PSIR 401 Political Psychology 6 ECTS
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy
	Program	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall, 2025
	Instructor	Laman Gahramanova
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Prerequisites	Consent of instructor	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Required	
Required textbooks and course materials	<p>Core Textbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houghton, D.P. 2015. <i>Political Psychology. Situations, Individuals, and Cases</i>. 2d ed. New York: Routledge. <p>Supplementary sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2017. <i>Narrative nudge to peace in protracted conflict</i>. Baku, SAM. Garagozov, R.R. 2015. <i>Collective Memory: How representations about the past are created, preserved and reproduced</i>. New York: Nova Publishers. 	
Course outline	<p>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.</p>	
Course objectives	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is aimed to give the students the general knowledge about concepts of political psychology with concentration on political behavior. <p>Specific Objectives of the Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>By the end of the course the students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (%)
	Mid-term exam		30
	Case Study Presentation		10
	Review Presentation		5
	Attendance and active participation		5
	Quizzes		10
	Final exam		40
	Total		100
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for class <p>The structure of this course makes your individual study and preparation outside the class extremely important. The lecture material will focus on the major points introduced in the text. Reading the assigned chapters and having some familiarity with them before class will greatly assist your understanding of the lecture. After the lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdrawal (pass/fail) <p>This course strictly follows grading policy of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Thus, a student is normally expected to achieve a mark of at least 60% to pass. In case of failure, he/she will be required to repeat the course the following term or year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheating/plagiarism <p>Cheating or other plagiarism during the Quizzes, Mid-term and Final Examinations will lead to paper cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Guidelines <p>Midterm Exam Open-ended questions covering the first half of the course. Students answer a set number of questions. Academic honesty applies.</p> <p>Attendance and Active Participation Regular attendance and active contribution to discussions are required. Unexcused absence from more than two consecutive lessons will affect the grade.</p> <p>Review Presentation Short 5–7 minute recap of the previous lecture. Evaluated on accuracy, clarity, and engagement.</p> <p>Case Study Presentation Students research and present assigned cases. Graded on content, organization, clarity, creativity, and visuals (0–2 points each). Missing the scheduled date results in zero.</p> <p>Quizzes Two short quizzes (5 points each) on material covered so far. No make-ups except for documented emergencies.</p>		

		Final Exam Open-ended questions covering the entire course. Students answer a set number of questions. Grading considers accuracy, analysis, organization, and language ▪ Professional behavior guidelines The students shall behave in the way to create favorable academic and professional environment during the class hours. Unauthorized discussions and unethical behavior are strictly prohibited.	
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	19.09.2025	Introduction to the Course: 1) What is Political Psychology; 2)Syllabus and its Requirements	Political Psychology, Chapter 1
2	26.09.2025	<i>A Brief History of the Discipline</i>	Political Psychology, Chapter 2
3	03.10.2025	<i>Behaviorism and Human Freedom</i>	Introduction to Political Psychology, Chapter 3
4	10.10.2025	Group Decision Making	Political Psychology, Chapter 6
5	17.10.2025	Psychobiography	Political Psychology, Chapter 7
6	24.10.2025	Personality and Beliefs	Political Psychology, Chapter 8
7	31.10.2025	Cognition	Political Psychology, Chapter 9
8	07.11.2025	Affect and Emotion	Political Psychology, Chapter 10
9	14.11.2025	Neuroscience	Political Psychology, Chapter 11
10	21.11.2025	Midterm Exam	
11	28.11.2025	The Psychology of Voting Behavior	Political Psychology, Chapter 12
12	05.12.2025	The Political Psychology of Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Genocide	Political Psychology, Chapter 13
13	12.12.2025	The Psychology of Racism and Political Intolerance	Political Psychology, Chapter 14
14	19.12.2025	The Psychology of Terrorism	Political Psychology, Chapter 15
15	26.12.2025	The Psychology of International Relations	Political Psychology, Chapter 16
	TBA (Date to be decided by the Dean’s Office)	Final Exam	

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