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|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Identification                          | Subject  | PSIR 401 Political Psychology 6 ECTS |                |
|   | Department   | Political Science and Philosophy     |                |
|   | Program  | Undergraduate                        |                |
|   | Term   | Fall, 2025                           |                |
|   | Instructor   | Rauf 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 | <b>Core Textbook:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Houghton, D.P. 2015. <i>Political Psychology. Situations, Individuals, and Cases</i>. 2d ed. New York: Routledge.</li></ul> <b>Supplementary sources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lakoff, G. 2009. <i>The Political Mind: A Cognitive Scientist's Guide to Your Brain and Its Politics</i>. New York. Penguin Group.</li><li>Garagozov, R.R. 2015. <i>Collective Memory: How representations about the past are created, preserved and reproduced</i>. New York: Nova Publishers.</li></ul>  |                                      |                |
| 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                       | <b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This course is aimed to give the students the general knowledge about concepts of political psychology with concentration on political behavior.</li></ul> <b>Specific Objectives of the Course</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>To become familiar with the various psychological and political theories describing political leadership and mass movements.</li><li>To explore the political psychology of race and ethnicity.</li><li>To examine the impact of political psychology as it related to broader international concerns such as nationalism, political extremism, terrorism and war</li></ul> |                                      |                |
| Learning outcomes                       | By the end of the course the students should be able: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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.</li></ul>  |                                      |                |
| Evaluation                              | Methods  | Date/deadlines                       | Percentage (%) |
|   | Midterm Exam   |                                      | 30             |
|   | Class Attendance   |                                      | 5              |
|   | Project (Essay)  |                                      | 15             |

|                           |                             |   |   |     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|
|                           |                             | Presentation/Group Discussion   |   | 10  |
|                           |                             | Final Exam  |   | 40  |
|                           |                             | Total   |   | 100 |
| <b>Policy</b>             |                             | <b>Course requirements:</b>   |   |     |
|                           |                             | 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. |   |     |
|                           |                             | <b>Reading materials will be provided by the lecturer.</b>  |   |     |
|                           |                             | <b>Warning:</b> 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.   |   |     |
| <b>Tentative Schedule</b> |                             |   |   |     |
| <b>Week</b>               | <b>Date/Day (tentative)</b> | <b>Topics</b>   | <b>Textbook/Assignments</b>                     |     |
| 1                         | 16.09.2025                  | Introduction to the Course: 1)What is Political Psychology; 2)Syllabus and its Requirements   | Political Psychology, Chapter 1                 |     |
| 2                         | 23.09.2025                  | <i>A Brief History of the Discipline</i>  | Political Psychology, Chapter 2                 |     |
| 3                         | 30.09.2025                  | <i>Behaviorism and Human Freedom</i>  | Introduction to Political Psychology, Chapter 3 |     |
| 4                         | 07.10.2025                  | Group Decision Making   | Political Psychology, Chapter 6                 |     |
| 5                         | 14.10.2025                  | Psychobiography   | Political Psychology, Chapter 7                 |     |
| 6                         | 21.10.2025                  | Personality and Beliefs   | Political Psychology, Chapter 8                 |     |
| 7                         | 28.10.2025                  | Cognition   | Political Psychology, Chapter 9                 |     |
| 8                         | 04.11.2025                  | Affect and Emotion  | Political Psychology, Chapter 10                |     |
| 9                         | 11.11.2025                  | Neuroscience  | Political Psychology, Chapter 11                |     |
| 10                        | 18.11.2025                  | <b>Midterm Exam</b>   |   |     |
| 11                        | 25.11.2025                  | The Psychology of Voting Behavior   | Political Psychology, Chapter 12                |     |
| 12                        | 02.12.2025                  | The Political Psychology of Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Genocide   | Political Psychology, Chapter 13                |     |
| 13                        | 09.12.2025                  | The Psychology of Racism and Political Intolerance  | Political Psychology, Chapter 14                |     |
| 14                        | 16.12.2025                  | The Psychology of Terrorism   | Political Psychology, Chapter 15                |     |
| 15                        | 23.12.2025                  | The Psychology of International Relations   | Political Psychology, Chapter 16                |     |
|                           | TBA                         | <b>Final Exam</b>   |   |     |

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