

Syllabus for PS 4110, Section 1
Political Behavior
Fall 2016

Location:

TR 9:30–10:45am, 1500 Hawthorn Hall

Professor: Bryce J. Dietrich

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Office Hours: W 10:00am–11:00am, and by appointment

Readings: All readings for this class are journal articles reporting original research on the topics we will exam. Nearly all of these are available electronically through the library's website.

Material to be Covered: Research in political science often omits attention to people, with primary emphasis instead placed on institutions and policies. However, human actors are the foundation of everything we know about politics. Thus, in order to fully understand politics we must understand people, especially their attitudes and behaviors. This perspective provides the core rationale for research in the field of political behavior. In this course, we will examine contemporary studies of mass political behavior. Although members of Congress, presidents, and supreme court justices are important we will focus most of our

attention on citizens. “Behavior” is defined broadly to include psychological attachments, affect, cognitions, perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs, in addition to overt behavior such as participation and voting. During the course of the semester we will read a mix of “classic” studies and newer “cutting-edge” research.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz almost every day. Most quizzes will have five items concerning the day's reading. Others will have more items (15-20). These will function as mini tests of recent course material. These will be on **2/13**, **2/27**, **3/20**, and **4/17**. If you have done the reading and attend class, you should do fine. In calculating your final course grade, I will drop the three lowest daily quiz scores. I will not drop any of the "big" quiz scores. Here are the "big" quiz details:

Date	Topics	Questions
February 13th	Weeks 2 and 3	10
February 27th	Weeks 4 and 5	10
March 20th	Weeks 7, 8, and 9	15
April 17th	Weeks 11 and 12	10

Group Project: You will be assigned a research group. Your group will be given a task every Friday. Each of these tasks will be designed to help you construct a research poster. We will discuss the details of a poster and assign you a group on Friday, January 23rd. Depending on interest, you may have the opportunity to present this work on campus.

Analytic Papers: Each student will write and submit two analytical papers. Two of these papers are short response papers (2-3 pages) discussing aspects of the journal articles we have read in class. In these papers, your objective is to think critically about the article you are examining. Please **DO NOT SUMMARIZE**. These papers will be **DUE on March 13th (*)** and **April 24th (**)**. Details of each of these papers will be made available two weeks prior to the assigned due date.

Final Paper: Each student will write and submit a final paper. In this larger paper, you will be asked to examine a topic related to your Group Project. In doing so, you should approach the topic from a scientific perspective. Ideally, we will have some results from your project, but an in-depth research design could also suffice. We will be discussing this assignment a lot throughout the semester. It will be **DUE on May 11th**.

Participation and Short Assignments: Students are expected to participate in class. This means students should have finished all the assigned readings before class and be an active participant in discussion. Additionally, there may be occasional short writing assignments. Each short assignment will be posted one week in advance of the due date. Your final participation grade (including the short assignments) will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Absences: Regular attendance is expected. However, attendance will not be taken. With that said, it is difficult to participate when you are not here, meaning if you consistently miss class, your absences may affect your participation grade.

Grading:

Final Paper	30%
Quizzes	20%
Group Poster	15%
Analytic Paper #1	10%
Analytic Paper #2	10%
Class Participation	5%
Group Participation	5%
Group Worksheets	5%

Scale:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	0-59.99%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Late work will not be accepted and no make-up exams will be given. There should be no problems meeting the expectations of the course. All the due dates are given, and I will make sure to give you plenty of notice ahead of time.

Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If caught, you will be punished under the guidelines provided by the University of Missouri. Please consult the *Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities* for more information:

<http://osrr.missouri.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>

Provisions for Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

Calendar The calendar below gives the dates of exams and other important deadlines for the course. Readings should be completed **prior** to the start of class. This calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and posted on Blackboard.

Week 1

Wednesday 21 Jan **Welcome and Introductions**
No Readings

Friday 23 Jan **Group Project**
No Readings

Week 2

Monday 26 Jan **Introduction to Concepts and Methods I**
Dalton, Russell J. and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 2009. "Overview of Political Behavior: Political Behavior and Citizens." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, ed. Jan E. Leighley. New York, NY: 321-344.

Wednesday 28 Jan **Introduction to Concepts and Methods II**
Atkeson, Lonna Rae. 2010. "The State of Survey Research as a Research Tool in American Politics." In *Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*, ed. Jan E. Leighley. New York, NY: 9-26.

Fridkin, Kim L. and Patrick J. Kenney. 2010. "Laboratory Experiments and the Study of Political Behavior." In *Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*, ed. Robert E. Goodin. New York, NY: 51-68.

Friday 30 Jan **Group Project**
No Readings

Week 3

Monday 2 Feb **Political Knowledge I: Measurement**

*Mondak, J. J. and Anderson, M. R. 2004. "The Knowledge Gap: A Reexamination of Gender-Based Differences in Political Knowledge." *Journal of Politics* 66:492-512.

Wednesday 4 Feb **Political Knowledge II: Misinformation**

*Kuklinski, J. H., P. J. Quirk, J. Jerit, D. Schwieder, and R. F. Rich. 2000. "Misinformation and the Currency of Democratic Citizenship." *Journal of Politics* 62:790-816.

Friday 6 Feb **Group Project**

No Readings

Week 4

Monday 9 Feb **Political Knowledge III: Misinformation Continued**

*Gaines, B. J., Kuklinski, J. H., Quirk, P. J., Peyton, B. and Verkuilen, J. 2007. "Same Facts, Different Interpretations: Partisan Motivation and Opinion on Iraq." *Journal of Politics* 69:957-974.

Wednesday 11 Feb **Attitudes I: Cohesiveness**

*Chong, D. 1993. "How People Think, Reason and Feel about Rights and Liberties." *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 867-99.

Friday 13 Feb **Group Project**

Big Quiz #1

Week 5

Monday 16 Feb **Attitudes II: Biases**

Taber, C. S. and M. Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50:755-69.

Wednesday 18 Feb **Heuristics**

Kuklinski, J. H., and N. L. Hurley. 1994. "On Hearing and Interpreting Political Messages: A Cautionary Tale of Citizen Cue-Taking." *Journal of Politics* 56:729-51.

Friday 20 Feb **Group Project**

No Readings

Week 6

Monday 23 Feb **Framing**

*Nelson, T. E., Clawson, R. A., and Oxley, Z. 1997. "Media Framing of a Civil Liberties Controversy and its Effect on Tolerance." *American Journal of Political Science* 91: 567-84.

Wednesday 25 Feb **Media I**

Iyengar, S., M. D. Peters, and D. R. Kinder. 1982. "Experimental Demonstrations of the 'Not-So-Minimal' Consequences of Television News Programs." *American Political Science Review* 76:848-58.

Krosnick, J. A., and D. R. Kinder. 1990. "Altering the Foundations of Support for the President through Priming." *American Political Science Review* 84: 497-512.

Friday 27 Feb **Group Project**

Big Quiz #2

Week 7

Monday 2 March

Media II

*Dalton, R. J., P. A. Beck, and R. Huckfeldt. 1998. "Partisan Cues and the Media: Information Flows in the 1992 Presidential Election." *American Political Science Review* 92:111-26.

Wednesday 4 March

Social Communication

Parker, S. L., G. R. Parker and J. A. McCann. 2008. "Opinion Taking within Friendship Networks." *American Political Science Review* 52: 412-20.

Friday 6 March

Group Project

No Readings

Week 8

Monday 9 March

Alternative Perspectives I: Genetics

*Alford, J. R., C. L. Funk, and J. R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99: 153-67.

Wednesday 11 March

Alternative Perspectives II: Personality

*Mondak, J. J., D. Canache, M. V. Hibbing, M. A. Seligson and M. R. Anderson. 2010. "Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior." *American Political Science Review* 104: 85-110.

Friday 13 March

Group Project

Analytic Paper #1 Due

- Week 9
- Monday 16 March **Race I**
 **Peffley, M., J. Hurwitz, and P. M. Sniderman. 1997. "Racial Stereotypes and Whites' Political Views in the Context of Welfare and Crime." *American Political Science Review* 41:30-60.
- Wednesday 18 March **Race II**
 **Kuklinski, J. H., et al. 1997. "Racial Prejudice and Attitudes Toward Affirmative Action." *American Political Science Review* 41:402-19.
- Friday 20 March **Group Project**
Big Quiz #3
- Week 10
- Monday 23 March Spring Break
No Class
- Wednesday 25 March Spring Break
No Class
- Friday 27 March Spring Break
No Class
- Week 11
- Monday 30 March **Tolerance I**
 **Sullivan, J. L., J. Piereson and G. E. Marcus. 1979. "An Alternative Conceptualization of Political Tolerance: Illusory Increases, 1950s-1970s." *American Political Science Review* 73: 783-94.
- Wednesday 1 April **Tolerance II**
 **Gibson, J. L. 1988. "Political Intolerance and Political Repression During the McCarthy Red Scare." *American Political Science Review* 82:511-29.
- Friday 3 April **Group Project**
No Readings

Week 12

Monday 6 April **Tolerance III**

Mondak, J. J., and M. S. Sanders. 2003. "Tolerance and Intolerance, 1976-1998." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 492-502.

Wednesday 8 April **Tolerance IV**

**Mondak, J. J., and J. Hurwitz. 2012. "Examining the Terror Exception: Terrorism and Commitments to Civil Liberties." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76: 193-213.

Friday 10 Feb **Group Project**

No Readings

Week 13

Monday 13 April **Trust**

**Mutz, Diana C., and Byron Reeves. 2005. "The New Videomalaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust." *American Political Science Review* 99: 1-16.

Wednesday 15 April **Group Project**

No Readings

Friday 17 April **Group Project**

Big Quiz #4

Week 14

Monday 20 April **Partisanship**

Bartels, Larry M. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 35-50.

Wednesday 22 April **Group Project**

No Readings

Friday 24 April **Group Project**

Analytic Paper #2 Due

Week 15

Monday 27 April **Political Participation I: Voting**
Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 1997. "Voting Correctly."
American Political Science Review 91:585-98.

Wednesday 29 April **Political Participation II: Social Capital**
Bowling Alone

Friday 1 May **Group Project**
Group Poster Due

Week 16

Monday 4 May **Choose Your Own Adventure**
TBD

Wednesday 6 May **Choose Your Own Adventure**
TBD

Friday 8 May Reading Day
No Class

Week 17

Monday 11 May **Final Paper Due**
No Readings