Syllabus for PS 4110, Section 1  
Political Behavior  
Fall 2016  

Location:  

TR 9:30–10:45am, 1500 Hawthorn Hall  

Professor: Bryce J. Dietrich  

Office: 204 Professional Building  
Email: dietrichb@missouri.edu  
Web Page: [http://www.brycejdietrich.com](http://www.brycejdietrich.com)  
Office Hours: MW 12:00–2:00pm, and by appointment  

Teaching Assistant: Thomas Olsen  

Office: 1234 Professional Building  
Email: tcovy4@mail.missouri.edu  
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 no drop any of the “big” quiz scores. Here are the “big” quiz details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td>Weeks 2 and 3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27th</td>
<td>Weeks 4 and 5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20th</td>
<td>Weeks 7, 8, and 9</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17th</td>
<td>Weeks 11 and 12</td>
<td>10</td>
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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 thinking 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Poster</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytic Paper #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytic Paper #2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Worksheets</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99%</td>
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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](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](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 homage.

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Readings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Group Project</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Readings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Group Project</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Readings</strong></td>
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Week 3

Monday 2 Feb  Political Knowledge I: Measurement

Wednesday 4 Feb  Political Knowledge II: Misinformation

Friday 6 Feb  Group Project
No Readings

Week 4

Monday 9 Feb  Political Knowledge III: Misinformation Continued

Wednesday 11 Feb  Attitudes I: Cohesiveness

Friday 13 Feb  Group Project
Big Quiz #1
Week 5

Monday 16 Feb  **Attitudes II: Biases**

Wednesday 18 Feb  **Heuristics**

Friday 20 Feb  **Group Project**
*No Readings*

Week 6

Monday 23 Feb  **Framing**

Wednesday 25 Feb  **Media I**


Friday 27 Feb  **Group Project**
**Big Quiz #2**
Monday 2 March  **Media II**

Wednesday 4 March  **Social Communication**

Friday 6 March  **Group Project**
*No Readings*

Monday 9 March  **Alternative Perspectives I: Genetics**

Wednesday 11 March  **Alternative Perspectives II: Personality**

Friday 13 March  **Group Project**
*Analytic Paper #1 Due*
**Race I**

**Race II**

**Group Project**

**Big Quiz #3**

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**Spring Break**

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**Tolerance I**

**Tolerance II**

**Group Project**

**No Readings**
Monday 6 April  Week 12
**Tolerance III**

Wednesday 8 April  **Tolerance IV**

Friday 10 Feb  **Group Project**
*No Readings*

Monday 13 April  Week 13
**Trust**

Wednesday 15 April  **Group Project**
*No Readings*

Friday 17 April  **Group Project**
**Big Quiz #4**

Monday 20 April  Week 14
**Partisanship**

Wednesday 22 April  **Group Project**
*No Readings*

Friday 24 April  **Group Project**
**Analytic Paper #2 Due**
Monday 27 April  Week 15  
**Political Participation I: Voting**  
*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**

Monday 4 May  Week 16  
**Choose Your Own Adventure**  
*TBD*

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

Friday 8 May  
**Reading Day**  
*No Class*

Monday 11 May  Week 17  
**Final Paper Due**  
*No Readings*