

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Political Psychology and Behaviour
<b>Course Code</b>	:	POL213
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	2 and 3
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	Three hours per week
<b>Category in Major Prog.</b>	:	BSMS required
<b>Discipline</b>	:	Political Science
<b>Teaching Period</b>	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term, 2009-10

### **Instructors**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Chan Che-po (office: SO309; Tel: 2616-7189; email: [chancp@ln.edu.hk](mailto:chancp@ln.edu.hk)) Office hours: Mondays 10:30-12:30 pm; Wednesdays 11:30-12:30; 2:30-3:30 pm

**Tutor:** Ms. Natalie Wong Wai-man (office: SO221; Tel: 2616-7199; email: [nataliewong@ln.edu.hk](mailto:nataliewong@ln.edu.hk)) Office hours: Mondays 4:00-6:00 pm; Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 pm

### **Brief Course Description**

Political psychology is, at the most general level, an application of what is known about human psychology to the study of politics. Research on political psychology has mainly been a two-way traffic: it draws on a diverse set of psychological theories about personality, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and inter-group interaction; and it addresses political phenomena such as leadership, mass political behaviour, civic education, and international conflict. This course draws on research of the field to understand political processes and behaviour.

### **Aims**

Political psychology covers such a variety of subjects that it is impossible to discuss them all in this introductory course. What it intends to achieve in this course is twofold: to enhance our knowledge about political processes with the help of psychological tools, and to train our analytical skills with cooperative research projects.

## **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be better equipped to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of and logically think about political behaviour from a psychological perspective;
2. investigate political phenomena using a psychological approach;
3. orally present and write up a project paper on a particular issue of political psychology.

## **Indicative Content**

1. Political Psychology: an Introduction
  - a. What is political psychology?
  - b. The poly-psy relationship: historical development
2. Decision-making at the Individual Level
  - a. Models of decision-making
  - b. Information processing
3. Decision-making within a Group
  - a. Groupthink
  - b. Perception and misperception
4. Destructive Obedience and Genocide
5. Political Socialization
6. Two Versions of Political Personality
  - a. Authoritarian personality
  - b. Democratic personality
7. Political Psychology of Elites
  - a. Presidential character/personality
  - b. When personality affects political behavior
8. Psychology of Nationalism
9. Psychology of Terrorism

## **Teaching Method**

This course is divided into two parts: lectures and tutorials. Lectures will serve as the “textbook” for the course. The lecturer will guide students through selected readings in political psychology that can help them to understand key issues in this field, and discuss the answers that some research in the field has found, as well as the methods that research used to get at the answers.

Tutorials for this course serve as helping the students to understand better and more of what they learn in the lectures and from the readings. We have regular discussions and presentations on assigned questions. (The questions will be given out later.) We also have movie watching and discussion afterwards and simulation game playing in the tutorials.

Project paper and other evaluated work are designed to help students mastering the material, to give students a chance to follow through on some of their particular interests, and to enable them to evaluate their progress.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Class participation, tutorial performance, project paper, and examination.

### **Assessment:**

1. Attendance 10%
2. Tutorial performance 20%
3. Project paper 20%
4. Final examination 50%

You are required to write a co-authored (3 or 4 persons) term paper. The paper will be first presented in the tutorial. It is due within 2 weeks after your presentation. The paper should be double-spaced, 3-4 pages by each person. More details will be given in class. Before the group presentations, students are asked to consult the instructors and the instructors will help them to formulate their own arguments and analyses.

**[Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. Cheating in examination, plagiarism and multiple submission of course work are considered as such dishonest practices.]**

Assessment (%)	Details of assessment	Date/due date	Measures Learning Outcomes
1. Attendance (10%)	Roll call for every tutorial class		
2. Presentation/ Class Performance (20%)	Group presentation in tutorial class/ your participation and contribution in the classes	Oral presentation to be allocated in the first tutorial class	1, 2, 3
3. Project paper (20%)	A coauthored research paper, 3-4 pages by each person and more details given in class	Due within 2 weeks after presentation	1, 2, 3
4. Final exam (50%)	40 multiple choice questions/ 3 short terms/ 1 essay question	During the exam period	1, 2

### Lecture Outline & Selected Readings

#### ***1. Political Psychology: an Introduction***

\*\*Deutsch, Morton, and Catarina Kinnvall. "What Is Political Psychology?" In *Political Psychology*, edited by Kristen Monroe, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002, pp. 15-42.

Hermann, Margaret G. "Political Psychology as a Perspective in the Study of Politics." In *Political Psychology*, edited by Kristen Monroe, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002, pp. 43-60.

Ward, Dana. "Origins and Development." In *Political Psychology*, edited by Kristen Monroe, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002, pp. 61-78.

#### ***2. Decision-making and Information Processing***

\*\*Monroe, Kristen Renwick. "Psychology and Rational Actor Theory," *Political Psychology*, vol. 16, no. 1, 1995:1-21.

\*\*Taber, Charles S. "Information Processing and Public Opinion." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, edited by David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 433-476.

- Simon, Herbert. "A Cognitive Approach to Human Nature in Politics." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 83-102.
- Lau, Richard R. "Models of Decision-Making." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, edited by David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 19-59.
- Sears, David. "Long-Term Psychological Consequences of Political Events." In *Political Psychology*, edited by Kristen Monroe, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002, pp. 249-269.
- Geva, Nehemia, James Mayhar, J. Mark Skorick, "The Cognitive Calculus of Foreign Policy Decision Making," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, vol. 44, no. 4, Aug 2000:447-71.

### **3. Groupthink, Perception and Misperception**

- \*\*Janis, Irving. "Groupthink." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 360-366.
- \*\*Levy, Jack S. "Political Psychology and Foreign Policy." In *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, edited by David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 253-278.
- Barner-Barry, Carol. *Psychological Perspectives on Politics*. N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1985, chapter 9- "Decision Making: the Quintessential Political Act".
- Schafer, Mark and Scott Crichlow. "The Process-Outcome Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: a Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink," *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 46, March, 2002: 45-68.
- Jervis, Robert, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. chs. 1 & 4. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1976.
- Stein, Janice Gross. "Building Politics into Psychology: the Misperception of Threat." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 367-392.
- Heradstveit, Daniel and Matthew Bonham. "Attribution theory and Arab images of the Gulf War," *Political Psychology*, vol. 17, no. 2, 1996:271-292.

### **4. Destructive Obedience and Genocide**

- \*\*Sabini, John P., and Maury Silver. "Destroying the Innocent with a Clear Conscience: A Sociopsychology of the Holocaust." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 192-217.

Lifton, Robert Jay. "The Nazi Doctors." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 218-231.

Milgram, Stanley. *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.

## **5. Political Socialization and Political Personality**

\*\*Barner-Barry, Carol. *Psychological Perspectives on Politics*. N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1985, chapter 4- "Political Socialization: Homo Politicus in the Process of Becoming".

\*\*Sniderman, Paul M. "Personality and Democratic Politics." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel, NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 154-166.

\*\*Brown, Roger. "The Authoritarian Personality and the Organization of Attitudes," In *Political Psychology : Key Readings*, edited by John T.Jost and Jim Sidanius. New York: Psychology Press, 2004, chapter 2.

Sullivan, John L., J. Piereson and G. E. Marcus. *Political Tolerance and American Democracy*. University of Chicago Press, 1982, especially chapters 1, 5, 6, 9.

Meloen, Jos D. "The Political Culture of State Authoritarianism." In Stanley Renshon and John Duckitt, eds., *Political Psychology: Cultural and Cross-cultural Foundations*. London: Macmillan, 2000, pp. 108-127.

Stone, William F and Paul E. Schaffner. *The Psychology of Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1988, chapter 6 – "Authoritarianism and Machiavellianism".

Seliktar, Ofira. "Identifying a Society's Belief Systems." In *Political Psychology*, edited by Margaret Hermann, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1986, pp. 320-354.

## **6. Political Psychology of Elites**

\*\* Barber, James David. "The Presidential Character." In *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Neil J. Kressel. NY: Paragon House, 1993, pp. 127-137.

\*\*Post, Jerrold M. *Leaders and Their Followers in a Dangerous World: the Psychology of Political Behavior*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, chapter 2-"When Personality Affects Political Behavior".

Hermann, Margaret. "Ingredients of Leadership." In *Political Psychology*, edited by Margaret Hermann. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1986, pp. 167-192.

Barner-Barry, Carol. *Psychological Perspectives on Politics*. N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1985, chapter 5-"Leading and Following: Who is 'In Charge'?"

Preston, Thomas. "Following the Leader": the Impact of U.S. Presidential Style upon Advisory Group Dynamics, Structure, and Decision." In *Beyond Groupthink: Political Group Dynamics and Foreign Policy-making*, edited by Paul't Hart, E. K. Stern and B. Sundelius. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000, chapter 7.

Searing, Donald D. "The Psychology of Political Authority: a Causal Mechanism of Political Learning Through Persuasion and Manipulation," *Political Psychology*, vol. 16, no. 4, 1995, pp. 677-696.

## **7. *Psychology of Nationalism***

\*\* Stern, Paul C. "Why do People Sacrifice for their Nations?" *Political Psychology*, vol. 16, no. 2, 1995, pp. 217-235.

Caputi, Mary. "National Identity in Contemporary Theory," *Political Psychology*, vol. 17, no. 4, 1966, pp. 683-694.

Feldman, Ofer. "Cultural Nationalism and Beyond: Crosscultural Political Psychology in Japan." In Stanley Renshon and John Duckitt, eds., *Political Psychology: Cultural and Cross-cultural Foundations*. London: Macmillan, 2000, pp. 182-200.

Chan, Che-po and Brian Bridges. "China, Japan and the Clash of Nationalisms," *Asian Perspective*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2006, pp. 127-156.

## **8. *Psychology of Terrorism***

\*\* Crenshaw, Martha. "The Psychology of Political Terrorism," In *Political Psychology*, edited by Margaret Hermann. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1986, pp. 379-413.

\*\*Post, Jerrold M. *Leaders and Their Followers in a Dangerous World: the Psychology of Political Behavior*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, chapter 6-"The Mind of the Terrorist".

Crenshaw, Martha. "The Psychology of Political Terrorism: an Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." *Political Psychology*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2000, pp. 405-420.

Pape, Robert A. *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. New York: Random House, 2005, chapter 2- "Explaining Suicide Terrorism".

Post, Jerrold M. *Leaders and Their Followers in a Dangerous World: the Psychology of Political Behavior*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, chapter 1-"9/11: The Explosive Force of Personality and Political Behavior".

### **Recommended/ Supplementary Readings**

The following readings are examples of textbooks which are useful for general readings and for research on your presentations and term papers.

David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Paul't Hart, E. K. Stern and B. Sundelius, eds., *Beyond Groupthink: Political Group Dynamics and Foreign Policy-making*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000.

James Kuklinski, eds., *Thinking about Political Psychology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2002.

John T.Jost and Jim Sidanius, eds., *Political Psychology : Key Readings*. New York: Psychology Press, 2004.

Kristen Monroe, eds., *Political Psychology*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002.

Margaret Hermann, eds., *Political Psychology*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1986.

Neil J. Kressel, eds., *Political Psychology: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. NY: Paragon House, 1993.

Jerrold M Post. *Leaders and Their Followers in a Dangerous World: the Psychology of Political Behavior*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004.

Stanley Renshon and John Duckitt, eds., *Political Psychology: Cultural and Cross-cultural Foundations*. London: Macmillan, 2000.

William F Stone and Paul E. Schaffner. *The Psychology of Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1988.

Martha Cottam et. al. *Introduction to Political Psychology*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004.