Psychological Approaches to Spring 2019 International Relations (Poli Sci 960)

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Office location: North Hall 409
Office hours: Tuesday (1:15pm-2:30pm)

1 Course Description

This course is a 3-credit graduate seminar on psychological approaches to International Relations (IR). This course does not require a background in psychology or political psychology. It is designed around substantive topic areas (e.g., reputation, personality, emotions) which we will focus on each week. Though this is not a “History of...” course, through the readings you will likely pick up on the broad patterns of scholarship in political psychology over the last 50 years. The larger methodological issues around political psychology and IR (how do you study this? what tradeoffs do the various approaches entail?) will form a backdrop to most of our discussions.

The ultimate goal of the course is to end the semester with a paper that is of publishable quality (or well on its way, at least). The paper must bear in some way on psychological approaches, but this gives you quite a bit of latitude and we can work together to pick a topic that make the most sense for you. If you are considering an experiment, but can’t actually run the experiment during the semester, you may turn in a paper minus the results section.

Responsibility for helping to guide discussions will rotate among pairs of students each class, and at the end of the semester, students will turn in their own papers, as well as a peer review of another student’s paper. The last class of the semester will consist of presentations made by students (something like a 10 minute conference presentation)

This course is a traditional course according to the Carnegie definition (i.e. at least 1 hour of classroom instruction and 2 hours of out-of-class student work each week).

Students who closely and carefully engage course readings, attend and participate in class discussion, and complete course assignments will be able to:

- Explain important concepts and arguments made by prominent scholars in political psychology and international relations
- Assess a variety of research designs on several dimensions
- Apply course concepts to analysis of current research and contemporary social scientific debates
2 Guidelines and Grading

- Grading is A-F (i.e., not pass/fail), and is based on a combination of class participation, your presentation and your written work (your paper as well as your manuscript review).

- The goal for this course is to come out of it with something useful: a chapter of your dissertation, a draft of an article, etc. Feel free to meet with me as soon as you begin to have an idea of what you’d like to work on for your written project.

- If you ever have any questions, or are confused about something, please do not hesitate to come to office hours and meet with me or email me. Office hours are Tuesdays, and you can make an appointment at the following website: [https://calendly.com/jrenshon/office-hours-tuesday/](https://calendly.com/jrenshon/office-hours-tuesday/). If you are unavailable at that time, you can email me to schedule an appointment.

3 Assignments & Grading

- 30% – Participation (includes 2-3x discussion leader for class)

  → Each week a pair of students will serve as discussion leaders. They will:

  - pick two papers to present formally to begin the class
  - circulate a 1 page discussion outline to the class
  - guide discussion
  - sign up [here](#)

- 40% – Final paper

  → 1 page proposal due Tuesday, February 26\textsuperscript{th}; final paper due Friday, May 3\textsuperscript{rd}

- 15% – Presentation of your research

- 15% – Manuscript Review

  → due Friday, May 10\textsuperscript{th}

4 Required Books

All the books should be available in the library, though of course, you may wish to purchase some (time to start thinking about building up your library!). All of the journal articles should be available online through the UW library website. If not, I will send or post scanned copies.
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Overview: Rationality and Course Overview</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Dispositions I: Worldviews, Operational Codes, Belief Systems</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Dispositions II: Personality, Character, integrative complexity</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Cold Cognition I: Heuristics, biases and prospect theory</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Cold Cognition II: Learning, Updating, Analogies</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Hot Cognition I: Motivated Reasoning, Images and Stereotypes</td>
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<td>1 page paper proposal due</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Hot Cognition II: Emotions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Group Decision-Making</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 26</td>
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<td>Status &amp; Hierarchy</td>
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<td>Reputation, Resolve and Revenge</td>
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<td>Biological, Evolutionary &amp; Neuro-scientific Approaches</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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**Final Paper Due: May 3**

**Manuscript Review Due: May 10**
Schedule

1. Introduction/Course Overview/Rationality
   [January 22]

   Additional Readings:

2. Dispositions I: Operational Codes & Belief Systems
   [January 29]


**Additional Readings:**


3. Dispositions II: Personality, Character, integrative complexity

[February 5]


**Additional Readings:**


[February 12]


Additional Readings:


5. Cold Cognition II: Learning, Updating, Analogies

[FEBRUARY 19]

  → Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7
  → Chapters 1, 2, 4-6, 8.
Additional Readings:


6. Hot Cognition I: Motivated Reasoning, Images and Stereotypes
[February 26]

  → Chapter 3

Additional Readings:

7. Hot Cognition II: Emotions


Additional Readings:


8. Group Decision-Making

[March 12]

  → Chapters 1, 2 & 8
- Saunders, E. N. (2017). No substitute for experience: Presidents, advisers, and information in group decision-making. *International Organization*
  → [LINK]

9. NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

[March 19]

10. NO CLASS

[March 26]

11. Status & Hierarchy

[April 2]


**Additional Readings:**


12. Reputation, Resolve and Revenge

[April 9]

Additional Readings:

- Kertzer, J. D. Experimental micro-foundations for resolve in military interventions. *International Organization*
- Kertzer, J. (2017b). Resolve, time and risk. *International Organization*

13. Leaders in IR


14. Biological, Evolutionary & Neuro-scientific Approaches

[April 23]
→ Chapters 1, 3, 4


15. PRESENTATIONS

[April 30]