

Comm 308, Poli Sci 321, Psych 284: Workshop in Political Psychology (all students welcome)

Political psychology is a thriving field of social scientific inquiry. Political psychologists attempt to understand the psychological underpinnings, roots, and consequences of political behavior. Some of this work attempts to understand political phenomena by applying theories developed through research done in psychological laboratories. Findings regarding mediation and moderation of real-world effects have often led to extensions and revisions of the inspiring psychological theories. Other political psychology research involves the development of completely new theory to provide psychological accounts of political phenomena. The empirical testing and refinement of these theories also contributes to basic understanding of how the mind works and how social interaction takes place.

This course will expose participants to research intended to test and refine theories of political cognition, emotion, and action and to enhance understanding of the methods used by political psychologists. Each week, a presentation will be made of a project either in an early stage, a middle stage, or a late stage. Participants respond to the presentation with questions of clarification and implications. Prior to the presentation, readings are provided to prepare.