This course introduces students to psychological theories of international politics and is divided into two parts. The first part of the course poses a series of questions about the role of individuals in international relations and considers different theories of political decision making (including rational choice, cognitive, motivational, and organizational theories), personality and leadership, and the role of images, values, and identity in shaping international behavior. The second part of the course poses questions about the social psychology of international relations, focusing on public opinion, social identity, and national goals.

Course Requirements

As in any graduate seminar, active participation is essential. All required readings — indicated by an asterisk (*) on the syllabus — must be completed before class. The course requires a (4-5 page) political leadership study. For this study, you should choose a national leader (current or past) and should summarize and document a salient aspect of this leader's political decision style (personality, belief system, principle motivations, risk propensity, characteristic motivated errors, etc.). The course also requires a short research paper, of approximately 10-15 pages, that applies one of the psychological perspectives discussed in this course to a specific empirical case. Each of these two papers also requires, as a separate component of your final grade, a peer review presentation. This presentation is a small group exercise with a written component. In it, you will present a brief written statement of the paper's argument and an outline of the paper (1 page), and the introduction to the paper (1-2 pages), in a small group setting for peer discussion and critique.

All written work must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Staple pages together, but do not place them in folders. Written work should conform stylistically to the standards of a prominent international relations journal (e.g., International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, or World Politics). Kate Turabian's Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) may also be helpful. Papers must also conform to university and professional standards for academic integrity. In particular, all students should review the relevant sections of the Student Handbook and of my website (http://www.fiu.edu/~kowert/students.html) on how to avoid plagiarism. The written component of the peer review presentations is due (by email) to the peer leader by Monday at 5:00 pm on the week of the presentation (and 5 copies should be brought to class on Thursday for the presentation itself). The leadership study and final research papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates; these papers may not be submitted by email. Late papers will be accepted only at the professor's discretion and will be penalized. Students may, however, be required to submit an electronic copy of written work to Turnitin.com. Grades will be determined on the basis of these course requirements as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review Presentation 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review Presentation 2</td>
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You are always welcome to discuss this course or other academic issues with me during my office hours. I will also be happy to make an appointment for another time if you cannot see me during office hours. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or problems!
Syllabus

Topic 1 (May 16) — Overview, Defining Political Psychology and its Antinomies

*Jervis, Robert, Ole Holsti, David Sears, and M. Brewster Smith, "Political Psychology — Challenges and Opportunities," Political Psychology 10 (1989), pp. 481-516 (Jervis and Holsti assigned as background reading).

Part I — Individual Psychology and International Relations

Topic 2 (May 23) — Are political decisions rational?

The Cognitive Revolution in Political Psychology

**Information Processing Perspectives on Foreign Policy**

**Emotion and Decision Making**


**Risk and Decision Making**


**Topic 3 (May 30) — How do attitudes and beliefs affect policy?**

*Aggression, Fear, and the Role of Emotion in Policy Making*


**Theories of Policy Motivation**


Foreign Policy Images and Belief Systems


**Topic 4 (June 6) — Does it matter who leads?**

*Modern Personality Research, Behavior, and Decision Making*


*Personality Assessment*


**Topic 5 (June 13) — Are two heads better than one? Can governments learn?**

**Foreign Policy Learning**


**Political Decision Making in Groups**


Kowert, Paul, Groupthink or Deadlock: When Do Leaders Learn From Their Advisors (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002).


Schafer, Mark and Scott Crichlow, Groupthink Versus High-Quality Decision Making in International Relations (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010).


Special Meeting (June 20) — Peer Review Presentation 1

ARGUMENT, OUTLINE, AND INTRODUCTION DUE JUNE 17, 5:00 PM

Part II — Social Psychology and International Relations

Topic 6 (June 27) — Are we merely pawns of our leaders?

LEADERSHIP STUDY DUE

Influences on Public Opinion

*The Structure and Effects of Public Opinion*


*Sniderman, Paul, Richard Brody, and Philip Tetlock, *Reasoning and Choice: Explorations in Political Psychology*, chapters 1, 2, 6.*


Holiday (JULY 4) — No Class Meeting

**Topic 7 (JULY 11) — Who are "we"?**

*Identity, Values, and Political Behavior*

*Adorno, Theodore W. et al, *The Authoritarian Personality* (New York: Harper, 1950), chapters 1, 2, 7 (pp. 222-242, 265-279 only).*


Nationalism and Psychology


Special Meeting (JULY 18) — Peer Review Presentation 2

ARGUMENT, OUTLINE, AND INTRODUCTION DUE JULY 15, 5:00 PM

Part III — Conclusions

Topic 8 (August 1) — Persistent Debates in Political Psychology

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE