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. Students should bring a brief (2 sentences per author/work, not per chapter within a work) written summary of each required reading to class every week. Please note that the purpose of these written summaries is not to outline the reading (you should do this separately, in your notes), but rather to identify the main argument. The readings summaries will be collected in class periodically, and without advance warning. The course requires a (4-5 pages) political leadership study. For this study, students 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. In the weeks preceding completion of the final research paper, students will make a brief presentation (about 15 minutes) of their research findings to the class.

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 (such as International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, or World Politics). Style manuals such as the following may also be helpful: Kate Turabian, Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago: University of Chicago Press); and William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White, The Elements of Style (New York: Macmillan). 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. All written work is due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Late papers will be accepted only at the professor's discretion and will be penalized. Assignments may not be submitted by email. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Readings Summaries</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Study</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 5) — 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 12) — Are political decisions rational?**

*The Cognitive Revolution in Political Psychology*


Information Processing Perspectives on Foreign Policy


Emotion and Decision Making


**Topic 3 (May 19) — What do leaders really want? How are their desires structured?**

**Aggression and Fear**


**Theories of Motivation**


**Risk and Decision Making**


**Topic 4 (May 26) — Are some leaders irredeemable? Are some especially virtuous?**

**Modern Personality Research, Behavior, and Decision Making**


**Personality Assessment**


**Topic 5 (June 2) — 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).


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Part II — Social Psychology and International Relations

Topic 6 (June 9) — 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.*

Topic 7 (June 16) — Who are "we?"

Identity, Values, and Political Behavior


Nationalism and Psychology


Part III — Conclusions

Class Presentations of Research Paper (To Be Determined — Tentatively July 21 & 28)

Topic 8 (August 4) — Persistent Debates in Political Psychology

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE


