

PS944-15 Political Psychology

26/27

Department

Psychology

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Gordon Brown

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module covers core concepts in political psychology with particular reference to principles of behavioural and economic science.

Module aims

This module will provide students on the MSc in Behavioural and Economic Science and Behavioural Data Science with a broad understanding of current research within political psychology. Students will be given the ability to:

- understand and evaluate mathematical and computational models within political science and political psychology
- understand and critically evaluate experimental studies in political psychology
- answer simple questions using publicly available data sets in the area of political psychology

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module will cover areas such as representations of political ideology in different disciplines; the psychological differences between conservatives and liberals; mapping and measuring the multi-dimensional ideological space, behavioural models and voting behaviour, social identity and preferences, inequality and economic and political behaviour, values, and culture in politics, the role of social media, and models of political persuasion and attitude change

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the history of, and different methodological approaches within, political psychology as relevant to Behavioural Science
- Comprehend and critically evaluate experimental studies in political psychology
- Interrogate datasets on political attitudes
- Comprehend and critique mathematical and computational models of important phenomena within political psychology.

Subject specific skills

Ability to articulate differences between approaches to both theory and experimentation in economics, psychology, and political science

Ability to understand and explain core theoretical concepts, specific models, and experimental paradigms within political psychology

Ability to apply insights from behavioural and economic science to understanding of political issues.

Transferable skills

Critical evaluation

Data analysis skills

Effective personal planning skills

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	8 sessions of 2 hours (11%)
Seminars	3 sessions of 2 hours (4%)
Tutorials	(0%)
Total	150 hours

Type	Required
Practical classes	2 sessions of 2 hours (3%)
Private study	37 hours (25%)
Assessment	87 hours (58%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Self-directed study related to seminar preparation, class studies and background reading

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Class Test 1	12%	8 hours	No
In-class test with mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component			
Class Test 2	12%	8 hours	No
In-class test with mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions			

Reassessment component is the same

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Class Test 3	12%	8 hours	No
In-class test with mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Class Test 4	12%	8 hours	No
In-class test with mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Small research project	52%	55 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will either implement explore and extend a simple computational mathematical model (of their own choosing) within political science or political psychology or will answer a political psychology question of their own choosing using an existing publicly available dataset			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Mark + written qualitative feedback + individual short meeting if requested

Availability

Pre-requisites

None

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TPSS-C803 Postgraduate Taught Behavioural and Data Science
- Year 1 of TPSS-C8P7 Postgraduate Taught Behavioural and Economic Science (Science Track)