

POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

Department of Political Science
POLS4372, Section 01 (CRN 81342)

MWF 9:00-9:50 AM
CHSS 242B

Dr. Ulbig

Ulbig@shsu.edu

Office

CHSS 496E

Phone

936.294.1468

OFFICE HOURS

MWF 10:00AM – 12:00PM

AND BY ARRANGEMENT

Course Description. An examination of American electoral behavior and public opinion. Topics may include elections and partisan behavior; political socialization; political participation; partisanship; and individual and group determinants of voting behavior. Prerequisites: 6 hours of Political Science. Credit 3.

Course Objectives. Specific course objectives include...

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
2. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
3. Learning to apply course materials (to improve rational thinking, problem solving and decisions).

Class Materials. You will need the following book for this class...

Hibbing, John R., Kevin B. Smith, and John R. Alford. 2014. *Predisposed: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Biology of Political Differences*. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-53587-8 (hard copy)

Haidt, Jonathan. 2012. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York: Vintage Books. ISBN 978-0-307-45577-2 (hard copy).

Additional readings will be provided in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

Exams and Grading. Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on **THREE TAKE-HOME EXAMS**. The exams will include one or more essay questions. Details about the expected content and formatting of exam answers will be made available on Blackboard and will be discussed in class.

There are no bonus points available on the written exams, but at the time you submit your final exam, you will have the opportunity to select one of the following grading options:

Default		First Alternative		Second Alternative	
Grade Calculation		Grade Calculation		Grade Calculation	
Exam #1	30%	Exam #1	35%	Exam #1	30%
Exam #2	30%	Exam #2	30%	Exam #2	35%
Final Exam	40%	Final Exam	35%	Final Exam	35%

All students not selecting one of the Alternative Grading Calculations at the time they submit their papers will be subject to the Default Grading Calculation. There are no exceptions to this policy.

COURSE GRADES will be calculated according to the following scale: A = 90.0-100; B = 80.0-89.999999; C = 70-79.999999; D = 60-69.999999; F = less than 60.

Make-Up Work Policy. You are expected to take the exams at the scheduled times and to submit them on or before the due date. There are [no opportunities to make up any work](#) in this class.

Visitors on the Classroom. Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Attendance Policy. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Because class attendance and course grade are demonstrably and positively related, I expect students to attend all class sessions of this course. Regular attendance is important because we will cover information in class that is not found in the texts. Attendance will be taken in every class meeting. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to become informed on what was covered in class. Please get class notes from a fellow student. It is not my policy to give out my lecture notes.

Grade Report Forms. Students requesting that grade report forms (for athletics or other campus organizations) be filled out immediately before or after class will need to [provide a printed copy of their grade sheet from Blackboard ALONG WITH THE FORM](#) so that Dr. Ulbig can verify grades quickly. Otherwise, students will have to speak with Dr. Ulbig during office hours or leave the form with Dr. Ulbig and pick it up from her the following class meeting. See Course FAQs on course Blackboard website for more information about grade report forms.

Academic Dishonesty. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see the Dean of Student's webpage: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>.

Given the rampant outbreak of plagiarism on university campuses, all work submitted in this class will undergo several plagiarism detection mechanisms, including, but not limited to, Turnitin, and Blackboard SafeAssign. Students should make themselves aware of the actions that constitute plagiarism through the many available resources on this topic, including, but not limited to the links located on the Blackboard course website.

Students found to be engaging in academic dishonesty of any sort will be subject to one or more of the following penalties: a score of zero (0) on the assignment in question; a failing grade in the class; initiation of disciplinary proceedings in compliance with University policy.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days. Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

Students with Disabilities Policy. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Class Schedule and Assignments.

Note: This schedule is tentative. Changes will be announced in class.

I. CLASSIC THEORIES OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

August 23 (Wednesday): Introductions, course policies, and expectations.

Course Syllabus, Blackboard Course Materials.

August 25 (Friday): Brief history of theoretical developments in the field

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "The Historical Development of Voting Studies," Chapter 2 (pp. 19-41) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Bb}

HURRICANE HARVEY HIATUS

August 28 – September 4 (Monday – Monday): No Class Meetings – University Closed

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY OF VOTING BEHAVIOR

September 6 – September 8 (Wednesday – Friday): The original sociological model

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "Social Structural Theories of Voting," Chapter 3 (pp. 42-47) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Bb}

WikiSummary: "Berelson, Lazarsfeld, and McPhee: Voting." {Available on Bb}

(Skim) Berelson, et al. 1954. *Voting: A Study of Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign*. Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press. {Excerpts Available on Bb}

September 11 (Monday): Class, race, and religion Today

Brewer, Mark D. 2009. *Party Images in the American Electorate*. New York, NY: Routledge. Chapters 3, 4, & 6, Pp. 20-32, 33-47, & 61-73. {Available on Bb}

September 13 (Wednesday): Other contemporary sociological influences

Flanigan, William H., Nancy H. Zingale, Elizabeth A. Theiss-Morse, and Michael W. Wagner. 2015. "Group Characteristics and Social Networks." Chapter 6 (pp. 182-211) in *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. 13th Edition. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Blackboard}

PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY OF VOTING BEHAVIOR

September 15 – September 18 (Friday – Monday): The original psychological model

(Review) Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "The Historical Development of Voting Studies," Chapter 2 (pp. 23-28) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Bb}

WikiSummary: "Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes: The American Voter." {Available on Bb}

(Skim) Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. {Excerpts Available on Bb}

September 20 (Wednesday): Party identification over time

Flanigan, William H., Nancy H. Zingale, Elizabeth A. Theiss-Morse, and Michael W. Wagner. 2015. "Partisanship and Party Change." Chapter 4 (pp. 98-138) in *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. 13th Edition. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Blackboard}

September 22 (Friday): Partisan polarization

Hetherington, Marc J. 2009. "Putting Polarization in Perspective." *British Journal of Political Science* 39(2): 413-448. {Available on Bb}

Iyengar, Shanto, Gaurav Sood, and Yphtach Lelkes. 2012. "Affect Not Ideology: A Social Identity Perspective on Polarization." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76(3): 405-431. {Available on Bb}

RATIONAL (ECONOMIC) THEORY OF VOTING BEHAVIOR**September 25 – September 27 (Monday – Wednesday): The original economic model**

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "Rational Choice Theories of Voting," Chapter 4 (pp. 71-87) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Bb}

WikiSummary: "Downs: An Economic Theory of Democracy." {Available on Bb}

(Skim) Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc. {Excerpts Available on Bb}

WikiSummary: "Riker and Ordeshook: A Theory of the Calculus of Voting." {Available on Bb}

September 29 (Friday): Rational ability: knowledge and cognitive heuristics

"Knowledge, Interest, and Attention to Politics." Chapter 7 in Clawson, Rosalee and Zoe M. Oxley. 2008. *Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 183 - 213. {Available on Bb}

Lau, Richard R. and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(4): 951-971. {Accessible through JSTOR}

October 2 (Monday): Rational ability: the online processing model

Lodge, Milton, Kathleen M. McGraw, and Patrick Stroh. 1989. "An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation." *The American Political Science Review* 83(2): 399-419. {Accessible through JSTOR}

Coronel, et al. 2012. "Remembering and Voting: Theory and Evidence from Amnesic Patients." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 837-848. {Accessible through JSTOR}

October 4 (Wednesday): Issue voting

Kinder, Donald R. and D. Roderick Kiewiet. 1979. "Economic Discontent and Political Behavior: The Role of Personal Grievances and Collective Economic Judgments in Congressional Voting." *American Journal of Political Science* 23(3): 495-527. {Accessible through JSTOR}

Lanoue, David J. 1994. "Retrospective and Prospective Voting in Presidential-Year Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 47(1): 193-205.

Page, Benjamin I. and Richard A. Brody. 1972. "Policy Voting and the Electoral Process: The Vietnam War Issue." *American Political Science Review* 66(3): 979-995. {Accessible through JSTOR}

October 6 (Friday): EXAM #1: CLASSIC THEORIES OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

EXAM HANDED OUT. DUE IN CLASS IN ONE WEEK, ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

II. NEWER THEORIES ABOUT POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

THE BIOLOGY OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

October 9 (Monday): The evolutionary psychology of political attitudes & behavior

Shenkman, Introduction and Part I, chapters 1-3 (Pp. ix-34) {Available on Bb}

October 11 (Wednesday): Predisposed, part I

Hibbing, Smith, and Alford, chapters 1-3 (Pp. 1-88).

October 13 (Friday): Predisposed, part II

Hibbing, Smith, and Alford, chapters 4-5 (Pp. 89-145).

****Exam #1 due at beginning of class****

October 16 (Monday): Predisposed, part III

Hibbing, Smith, and Alford, chapters 6-7 (Pp. 147-201).

October 18 (Wednesday): Predisposed, part IV

Hibbing, Smith, and Alford, chapters 8-9 (Pp. 203-284)

THE SOCIAL IDENTITY OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

October 20 (Friday): Us vs. Them, part I

Kinder and Kam, Introduction and chapter 1 (Pp. 1-30) {Available on Bb}

October 23 (Monday): Us vs. Them, part II

Kinder and Kam, chapters 2-3 (Pp. 31-69) {Available on Bb}

October 25 (Wednesday): Partisanship as a Social Identity

Greene, Steven. 1999. "Social Identity Theory and Party Identification." *Social Science Quarterly* 85(1): 136-153. {Accessible through JSTOR}

Abramowitz, Alan I. and Kyle L. Saunders. 2006. "Exploring the Bases of Partisanship in the American Electorate: Social Identity vs. Ideology." *Political Research Quarterly* 59(20): 175-187. {Accessible through JSTOR}

THE EMOTION OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

October 27 (Friday): Moral Tribes, part I

Greene, Joshua. 2013. *Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason, and the Gap Between Us and Them*. Chapters, Introduction & Chapter 1, Pp. 1-28. {Available on Blackboard}

October 30 (Monday): Moral Tribes, part II

Greene, Joshua. 2013. *Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason, and the Gap Between Us and Them*. Chapter 2, Pp. 29-65. {Available on Blackboard}

November 1 (Wednesday): Moral Tribes, part III

Greene, Joshua. 2013. *Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason, and the Gap Between Us and Them*. Chapter 3, Pp. 66-102. {Available on Blackboard}

November 3 (Friday): EXAM #2: NEWER THEORIES ABOUT POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

EXAM HANDED OUT. DUE IN CLASS IN ONE WEEK, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH.

III. THE MORALITY OF POLITICAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

November 6 (Monday): *The Righteous Mind*, part I

Haidt, Introduction and chapters 1-2 (Pp. xvii-60).

November 8 (Wednesday): *The Righteous Mind*, part II

Haidt, Chapters 3-4 (Pp. 61-108).

November 10 (Friday): *The Righteous Mind*, part III

Haidt, Chapters 5-6 (Pp. 109-149).

****Exam #2 due at beginning of class****

Note: This day is the drop deadline. If you plan to "Q" drop this class, please do so by this date. Students remaining enrolled in class past this date will receive the grades they earn in this class.

November 13 (Monday): *The Righteous Mind*, part IV

Haidt, Chapter 7 (Pp. 150-179).

November 15 (Wednesday): *The Righteous Mind*, part V

Haidt, Chapter 8 (Pp. 180-216).

November 17 (Friday): *The Righteous Mind*, part VI

Haidt, Chapter 9 (Pp. 217-255).

November 20 (Monday): Cumulative Final Exam

FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT. DUE IN DR. ULBIG'S OFFICE, BY 11:30 AM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH*

November 22 – November 24 (Wednesday – Thursday): Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class Meeting

November 27 (Monday): *The Righteous Mind*, "The Hive Switch"

Haidt, Chapter 10 (Pp. 256-284).

November 29 (Wednesday): *The Righteous Mind*, "Religion Is a Team Sport"

Haidt, Chapter 11 (Pp. 285-318).

December 1 (Friday): *The Righteous Mind*, "Can't We All Disagree More Constructively?"

Haidt, Chapter 12 (Pp. 319-366).

December 6 (Wednesday): Final Exam Due

Turn in by 11:30 AM in Dr. Ulbig's office (CHSS496E).