

## **Political Psychology of Conflict 3391G/001**

Department of Political science – Western university, Winter 2023:

Wednesday 3:30pm – 5:30pm, SSC 3028

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Mansell

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Office: 7241, Social Science Centre

Office Hours: 1:30-3:30pm or by appointment

### **Course Description**

Traditionally study of conflict in political science focuses on the nature of competing interests and the pursuit of power. In this course, students are introduced to the psychological factors affecting conflict. Students will learn about the behaviours, cognitive biases and dispositions, emotions, and personality traits influencing individual, intra-societal, and international conflicts. Students taking this class will walk away with a deeper understanding of the complexity of political phenomena as well as how political psychology research is creating possibilities for social development.

### **Course Materials**

All readings are made available electronically either through Western's Libraries and the course's OWL site or through the course google drive.

### **Core Questions**

Each week students will be required to critically discuss engage with a different psychological perspective on the causes of political conflict according to the course's core questions: *What are conflicts? What do conflicts tell us about the nature of politics? What are the implications of a psychological perspective on conflicts for politics? What are the implications of a psychological perspective for conflict reduction policies and programs?*

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester students will:

- Be familiar with the numerous psychological factors influencing political conflicts.
- Be able to analyze political conflicts using different methodologies and perspectives.
- Have a deeper understanding of the complexity of political conflicts.
- Have a better understanding of the challenges associated with conflict reduction.

## Student Assessment

The students will be assessed as follows:

- In-class Participation: 10%
- Two In-class discussion questions 15%.
  - On two separate weeks, students are required to submit a short discussion question on one of the week's readings. As part of the submission, students must include an (one) annotated bibliography which summarizes the reading. Students should not overthink the exercise, keep it simple! The annotations are intended promote good research habits and critical thinking.
  - Each annotation must include the following:
    - Their discussion question on the reading
    - An APA style citation
    - A 2 sentences overview or summary of the article
    - The article's main question or objective
    - The article's theory or hypotheses
    - The method or analysis used
    - The results or conclusions
    - 2-3 sentences about how the article relates to this course core questions
- 2 Reflection Papers: 50%
  - Students are required to produce two essays of about 1250 words. The first prompt will be distributed on OWL on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> and the second on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. The first essay is due on OWL on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and the second on Mar 13<sup>th</sup>. No late essay will be accepted without prior permission by Dr Mansell.
- Final Exam 25%:

## Weekly Topics and Readings

### Week 1: Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Syllabus & Expectations

- Christie, D. (2006). What is Peace Psychology the Psychology of? *Journal of Social Issues*, 62, 1, 1-17.
- Christie, D., Tint, B., Wagner, D. and Winter, D. (2008). Peace Psychology for a Peaceful World. *American Psychologist*, 63, 540-552.

### Week 2: Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Defining Behaviour and an Overview of Psychological Theories.

- Furr, R.M. & Funder, D.C. (2018). Persons, situations, and person-situation interactions. *Handbook of Personality: Theory & Research* (4th Ed). New York: Guilford. (pp. 1-30)
- Friend, W., & Malhotra, D. (2019). Psychological Barriers to Resolving Intergroup Conflict: An Extensive Review and Consolidation of the Literature. *Negotiation Journal*, 35(4), 407-442.

### Week 3: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

### Individual Differences in Conflict Styles

- Van Vugt, M., & Park, J. H. (2009). Guns, germs, and sex: how evolution shaped our intergroup psychology. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 3(6), 927-938.
- Polkinghorne, B., & Byrne, S. (2001). Between war and peace: An examination of conflict management styles in four conflict zones. *International Journal of Conflict Management*, 12(1), 23-46.

### **Week 4: Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### Identity and Group Formation #1 Social Identity

- Hornsey, M. J. (2008). Social identity theory and self-categorization theory: A historical review. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 2(1), 204-222.
- Swann Jr, W. B., Jetten, J., Gómez, Á., Whitehouse, H., & Bastian, B. (2012). When group membership gets personal: a theory of identity fusion. *Psychological review*, 119(3), 441.
- Mutz, D. C. (2018). Status threat, not economic hardship, explains the 2016 presidential vote. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(19), E4330-E4339.

### **Week5: Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### Identity and Group Formation #2 Group Identity

- Realistic Group Conflict Theory. Psychology. Accessible: <https://psychology.iresearchnet.com/social-psychology/social-psychology-theories/realistic-group-conflict-theory/>
- Zárate, M. A., Garcia, B., Garza, A. A., & Hitlan, R. T. (2004). Cultural threat and perceived realistic group conflict as dual predictors of prejudice. *Journal of experimental social psychology*, 40(1), 99-105.
- De Dreu, C. K., Gross, J., & Reddmann, L. (2022). Environmental stress increases out-group aggression and intergroup conflict in humans. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1851), 20210147.

### **Week 6: Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### Individual Differences and Group Conflict #1 Intra-Group Conflict

- Pratto, F., & Stewart, A. L. (2011). Social dominance theory. *The Encyclopedia of Peace Psychology*. (pp. 1-4).
- Feldman, S. (2003). Enforcing social conformity: A theory of authoritarianism. *Political Psychology*, 24(1), 41-74.
- Duckitt, J. (2006). Differential effects of right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation on outgroup attitudes and their mediation by threat from and competitiveness to outgroups. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 32(5), 684-696.

### **Week 7: Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – reading week no classes**

## **Week 8: Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Individual Differences and Group Conflict #2 Inter-Group Conflict**

- Smith, A. G. (2008). The implicit motives of terrorist groups: How the needs for affiliation and power translate into death and destruction. *Political Psychology*, 29(1), 55-75.
- Thomsen, L., Green, E. G., & Sidanius, J. (2008). We will hunt them down: How social dominance orientation and right-wing authoritarianism fuel ethnic persecution of immigrants in fundamentally different ways. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 44(6), 1455-64.

## **Week 9: Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Biasing Effects of Group Affiliation and Conflict #1**

- Pronin, E., Gilovich, T., & Ross, L. (2004). Objectivity in the eye of the beholder: divergent perceptions of bias in self versus others. *Psychological review*, 111(3), 781-799.
- Ahler, D. J., & Sood, G. (2018). The parties in our heads: Misperceptions about party composition and their consequences. *The Journal of Politics*, 80(3), 964-981.
- Hastorf, A. H., & Cantril, H. (1954). They saw a game; a case study. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 49(1), 129-134.

## **Week 10: Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Biasing Effects of Group Affiliation and Conflict #2**

- Druckman, J. N., & Bolsen, T. (2011). Framing, motivated reasoning, and opinions about emergent technologies. *Journal of Communication*, 61(4), 659-688.
- Kahan, D. M., Peters, E., Dawson, E. C., & Slovic, P. (2013). Motivated numeracy and enlightened self-government. *Yale Law School, Public Law Working Paper*, (307).
- Hart, P. S., & Nisbet, E. C. (2012). Boomerang effects in science communication: How motivated reasoning and identity cues amplify opinion polarization about climate mitigation policies. *Communication Research*, 39, 701-723.

## **Week 11: Mar 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Dehumanization**

- Maiese, M. (2003) Dehumanization  
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/dehumanization>
- Haslam, N., & Loughnan, S. (2014). Dehumanization and inhumanization. *Annual review of psychology*, 65, 399-423.
- Oren, N., & Bar-Tal, D. (2007). The detrimental dynamics of delegitimization in intractable conflicts: The Israeli–Palestinian case. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 31(1), 111-126.

## **Week 12: Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## Emotion

- Bar-Tal, D. (2004) *Psychological Dynamics of Intractable Conflict*
- <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/psychological-dynamics>
- Lindner, Evelin G. (2006). Emotion and Conflict: Why It Is Important to Understand How Emotions Affect Conflict and How Conflict Affects Emotions. In Deutsch, Morton, Coleman, Peter T., and Marcus, Eric C. (Eds.), *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice. Second edition*. Chapter twelve, pp. 268-293, San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Halperin, E., & Gross, J. J. (2010). Intergroup anger in intractable conflict: Long-term sentiments predict anger responses during the Gaza war. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 14, 477-488.

## **Week 13: Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

- No readings
- Review and Questions

## **APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES**

### **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

#### **Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

#### **Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

#### **Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

**"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

#### **Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

#### **Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

#### **Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Submission of Course Requirements**

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

## **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** Missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Accommodation and Accessibility**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the

Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

## **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.



If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

## Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:

<https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

## Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

### PLAGIARISM\*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

#### **A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991