This course is an introduction to a perhaps-idiiosyncratic set of topics in political psychology, with a focus primarily on mass political behavior in the American case. We will focus on a number of substantive topics, with particular interest in roles that metaphor, emotion, and race & gender play in shaping political reasoning and communication. Throughout the term we will also pay careful attention to issues of methodology and research design.

Course Requirements
Requirements for this course include: reading and thinking about the assigned material before each class meeting, attending and participating in class, submitting reading reaction essays (discussed below), reading other students’ reaction essays before each class, completing a take-home midterm, and writing a final research paper. In addition, there will be additional brief in-class written work.

Because this course is a seminar, what we all get out of it will depend greatly on what you put into it. Therefore, I expect that you will attend all classes, do the assigned reading before each class, and participate in the discussion. I will feel free to call on you in class to discuss the assigned material. Your participation grade will reflect the quality (not simply quantity!) of your class participation.

If an emergency prevents you from attending class you should let me know in advance. I do not distinguish excused and unexcused absences: it is my expectation that you will take this class seriously, which means, among other things, that you will be here unless something extraordinary happens in your life to prevent it.

Laptops: I allow (and even encourage) use of laptops in class for note-taking. In addition, laptops will be useful for periodically group work that involves internet research. However, I always expect you to be engaged with the class discussion.

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading reaction essays (6 total)</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home midterm exam</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final research project</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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Readings
The required books are available at the UVa Bookstore and from the usual online retailers. All other materials are on Collab and/or linked from the syllabus. There are four required books:


Reading Reaction Essays
You must turn in six reading reaction essays over the course of the term, and you must read your colleagues’ reactions before every class. We have 11 classes with readings (i.e., not research days), so that means you must complete a reaction about every other week on average. To encourage you not to leave them all to the end, I require that you complete at least three reactions before the midterm exam.

REACTION CONTENT
React in no more than one page (250–300 words or so). Your essay should engage with the material. This could consist of raising a theoretically-informed question and suggesting avenues for answering it; applying the insights from the reading to a novel example drawn from modern or historical politics; comparing and contrasting parts of two or more readings; or something else. Good essays generally will be relatively specific in some way, in order to reach beyond vague generalities; often they will include a brief quotation or quotations. In formulating your essay, you should go with issues, concerns, comparisons, questions, or confusions that struck you when reading the material. If none struck you while reading, go back and read more carefully!

Because your space is limited, you should get right to the point without wasting space on description or summary of the readings. Your essays need not be overly formal, though they should of course be clear, grammatical, and proof-read.

I will use these as feedback about what you are taking from the reading and to help shape class discussions. They also will also help you to read and think carefully about the material before getting to class.

REACTION LOGISTICS
Reaction essays will be posted in the Forum area of Collab; each week has its own topic. You should post your reaction as the body (not an attachment) of a new thread in the appropriate forum, with your name as the message title.

Reactions must be posted to the Forum no later than 10pm on the evening before class. Because other students must read your reactions, any reaction posted after the deadline will not count.

In addition, you are also responsible for reading other students’ reactions before each class, so you will need to check the forum after midnight each evening (or first thing in the morning). You may post a reply to a reaction essay if you wish to flag an issue for class discussion.
I will grade reactions on a three point scale: 3 for an excellent, insightful essay that goes beyond expectations; 2 for a solid essay; 1 for an essay that falls short in some real way; 0 for essays that are not turned in or that do not give evidence of any real effort. Most grades will be 2s.

Other Policies
I respect and uphold University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to students with physical, visual, hearing, and other disabilities or impairments; plagiarism; racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, or religious discrimination; and all forms of harassment.

If you have (or suspect you have) a learning or other disability that requires academic accommodations, you must contact the Student Disability Access Center (formerly known as LNEC, http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/sdac/sdac.html) as soon as possible, at least two to three weeks before any assignments are due. I take learning disabilities very seriously and we will make whatever accommodations you need to be successful in this class. However, they must be properly documented by the SDAC and I must have enough notice to make appropriate arrangements.

Plagiarism, or academic theft, is passing off someone else’s words or ideas as your own without giving proper credit to the source. You are responsible for not plagiarizing and are expected to abide by the University of Virginia Honor Code (see http://www.virginia.edu/honor/what-is-academic-fraud-2/).

Assignments turned in late without prior arrangement will not be considered for a grade. If something comes up that prevents you from completing an assignment on time, you must get in touch with me as far in advance as possible.
Aug 26  Welcome

Sept 2  Substance and method in political psychology

Sears, Huddy, and Jervis: “The Psychologies Underlying Political Behavior” Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology, 3-16


Sept 9  Political ideology


Sept 16 Implicit political cognition


Sept 23  Race, gender, and politics

Sept 30  Metaphor & politics, in theory
Lakoff, George. 2002. Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Read Parts I, II, & III; your choice of one chapter from Part IV; and V.

Oct 7  Is Lakoff Right?

Moses, Jennifer Filson, and Marti Hope Gonzales. 2014. “Strong Candidate, Nurturant Candidate: Moral Language in Presidential Television Advertisements.” Political Psychology:n/a-n/a.


Midterm exam will be distributed

Oct 14  No Class
UVA Reading Day

Oct 17 (Friday) at 2pm: Midterm exam due on Collab

Oct 21  Analogies, metaphors, and framing


Oct 28  Metaphors of the body, chivalry, & war


Nov 4  Work Day
We will have an in-class workshop on your final research projects.

Nov 11 Emotion


Nov 18 Terrorism 1: causes
Nov 25  **Terrorism 2: effects on the public**


Kruglanski, Arie W., Martha Crenshaw, Jerrold M. Post, and Jeff Victoroff. 2007. “What Should This Fight Be Called?: Metaphors of Counterterrorism and Their Implications.” *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* 8 (3):97-133.

Dec 2  **In-class research symposium**
*You will present a brief overview of your final research project and results.*