Seminar in Political Socialization and Psychology  
POS 6933 Class Number: 18637  
Class Periods:  Mondays 8-10 periods; 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm ET  
Location:  Anderson 021  
Academic Term:  Fall 2021

Instructor:  Michael D. Martinez  
martinez@ufl.edu  
(352) 273-2363  
208 Anderson Hall

Office Hours:  Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 11:00 ET  
Office Hour appointments available at https://calendly.com/martinez-uf

Office hours will be by Zoom, unless an in-person appointment is requested.  
Zoom id https://ufl.zoom.us/my/mdmartinez

Course Description:  
This seminar will review the scholarly literature on political socialization, social influence, and personality, and emotions, and provide students with the theoretical background and empirical tools to write a research paper about the subject.  (3 credit hours)

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites:  
Completion of or current enrollment in a graduate course in a social science Research Methods course is strongly recommended. Basic ability to use a statistical package (R, SPSS, or Stata) is assumed.

Course Objectives:  
(1) To review the scholarly literature on political socialization, social influence, personality, and emotions, and  
(2) To provide students with the theoretical background and empirical tools to write a research paper, thesis, or dissertation about an issue related to the topic.

Required Books:  
Students may access these books in any format of their choosing. Three of these are available as E-books at the UF Library, but just as with a physical book, there may be limits on how many people can access the book at any given time. E-books and physical books are also available for purchase at Amazon and other retailers.


**Other Required Readings:**

Articles and chapters are listed in the course schedule below within each module.

**Recommended Readings:**

Review essays that are listed in each module are not required, but provide excellent overviews of the literature to orient the reader to the topic. Students should consult these reviews to get a grasp of the literatures in the areas in which they are writing papers, and in preparing for comprehensive exams.

Other articles, books, and chapters are also suggested as starting points for students with research interests in these areas.

**Recommended Materials:**

Each student is expected to have access to a basic statistical software package (SPSS, Stata, or R) and a familiarity with how to do basic analyses (reading data, frequencies and crosstabs).

All are available for free on UF Apps.

- R is freely downloadable at https://cloud.r-project.org/
- SPSS is available for lease at https://onthehub.com/spss/
- Stata is available for lease at https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/

**Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy**

Attendance in the class meetings is required in each seminar meeting, as consistent with University policy.

The weekly meetings of the seminar should be viewed as opportunities for the exchange of ideas among scholars. You may, on occasion, be able to tell that I am the leader of the seminar, but its overall success depends on the informed participation of everyone. Each student is expected to have completed the readings for the week, and to have something to say about those readings when seminar begins. Participation will be evaluated based on listening (attentiveness), preparation for class discussion, quality of the contributions, and impact on the class.

Students who can reasonably anticipate an absence must inform the instructor by email as soon as practical and prior to the anticipated absence.
Absences from seminar may be excused with documentation of illness, quarantine, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., professional conferences), military obligation, legal obligation (e.g., jury duty or subpoena), severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities. Make-up essay assignments will be available as substitutes for class participation for excused absences.

As a reminder, UF is encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated against COVID. (See here and here.) If you have not yet been vaccinated, walk-up vaccinations (free of charge) are available at UF Health and at local pharmacies in Gainesville.

Course Structure

This course is divided into a prologue, four modules, and an epilogue.

Prologue (August 23)

Topics of discussion in the seminar will be introduced. Datasets and basic R code to access them will be made available.

Modules (August 30 – November 29)

In the first week in each module (first two weeks in the second module), we will read a set of articles and chapters that explore different aspects of the main question. In the following week, we will discuss a contemporary book and how well it synthesizes, challenges, or advances the perspectives of the authors in the preceding week. In the final week of each module, students will present some basic empirical analyses of secondary data showing the basic relationships discussed in the previous two weeks.

In the final week of each module, each student will either

- Submit an essay (of about four to five pages) which synthesizes and critiques the readings addressed in the previous two weeks. Essays should note the major theoretical questions addressed by the book and the articles, substantive or methodological innovations or controversies, and propose research questions that emanate from this set of readings or discuss how the ideas in the book and articles can be applied by government or political actors (including campaigns); or
- Submit and present an empirical analysis of secondary data that focuses on the major questions addressed in the literature, and how the relationships might vary over time, across space, or across different groups.

Essays and empirical analyses are due on Canvas at 9 am on the day of seminar. Students who do empirical analyses for that week will present their findings in the seminar.

In each module, each student will decide whether s/he will submit an essay or an empirical analysis. But over the course of the semester, each student will write two essays and present two empirical analyses.

Epilogue (December 6)
Each student will present a final paper, formatted as one of the following:

- A research proposal that reviews and synthesizes literature on aspect of political socialization or psychology, proposes an empirical research question, and presents preliminary research findings on that question. This may be a preliminary prospectus for an MA thesis or PhD dissertation, or a chapter in a thesis or dissertation. (Expected length: 15 to 20 pp, plus tables and references)
- A letter to a campaign consultant, which explains in layman's terms how the literature on political socialization or psychology can inform a modern political campaign or communication strategy. This is not intended to be a campaign plan, nor is it a memo about how to win a particular campaign. Rather, it should be constructed as reading material for a major political or communications consultant who is beginning a reflection after campaign season on how s/he might use the political participation literature to think about campaign strategy or message strategy. (12 to 15 pp.)

In either format, the final paper will be due on December 13 at noon.

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due Date (9 am unless otherwise noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance in seminars</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 essay or empirical analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>September 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2 essay or empirical analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3 essay or empirical analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4 essay or empirical analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of research paper / letter</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>December 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final submission of research paper / letter</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>December 13, noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94.0 - 100.0</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>74.0 - 76.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.0 - 93.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>70.0 - 73.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.0 - 89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>67.0 - 69.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.0 - 86.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>64.0 - 66.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0 - 83.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>60.0 - 63.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.0 - 79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>0 - 59.9</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</table>

"A" is intended to signal excellent work at the graduate level, "A-" signals good work, "B+" signals acceptable work at the graduate level, but improvement is needed, "B" or "B-" signals a warning that your work does not predict future success at the graduate level, and grades of "C+" are lower are unacceptable at the graduate level.
More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

UF Graduate Catalog
Grades and Grading Policies
Rubric for Participation and attendance in seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Needs Development</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
<td>Actively and respectfully listens to peers and instructor</td>
<td>Respectful, but not engaged by comments of others</td>
<td>Projects lack of interest or disrespect for others (including browsing other materials during class, or leaving class without explanation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation</strong></td>
<td>Arrives fully prepared with all assignments completed, and notes on reading, observations, and questions</td>
<td>Arrives partially prepared</td>
<td>Arrives unprepared, or with only superficial preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of contributions</strong></td>
<td>Comments are relevant and reflect understanding of readings, previous remarks of other students, and insights about assigned material</td>
<td>Comments occasionally show lack of preparation or understanding</td>
<td>Comments reflect little understanding of either the assignment or previous remarks in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact on class</strong></td>
<td>Comments keep the conversation on track and occasionally help move class discussion forward</td>
<td>Comments keep the conversation on track, but do little to move it forward</td>
<td>Comments do not advance the conversation or are actively harmful to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency of participation</strong></td>
<td>Actively participates at appropriate times</td>
<td>Participates appropriately when called upon, but no more</td>
<td>Seldom participates and is generally disengaged or absent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale for participation component:

- **A - Strong in almost all categories**
- **A- - Participation is strong in most categories, but needs development in one or two**
- **B - Needs development in most categories**
- **C - Unsatisfactory in three categories**
- **D - Unsatisfactory in four categories**
- **E - Unsatisfactory in all categories**

Feedback on participation will be provided at the end of each module.
Rubric for Modular Essays

Modular Essays will be evaluated on style (15%), elucidation of the major theoretical contributions and substantive findings of the readings (70%), and exposition of research questions or political applications that emanate from the module (15%).

Rubric for Modular Empirical Analyses

Modular Essays will be evaluated on clarity of presentation of the research question (30%), appropriateness of the data and measures for the research question (25%), interpretation of the analysis (25%), and replicability (20%).

Rubric for Research Proposal

Research proposals will be evaluated on style (15%), clarity of purpose (10%), presentation of relevant literature (30%), clarity and significance of the research question (10%), appropriateness of the research design (25%), analysis of preliminary results and strength of the conclusion (10%).

Rubric for Letter to a Political Consultant

Letters will be evaluated on style (15%), clarity of purpose (10%), presentation of relevant literature (40%), applicability to a campaign or strategy (25%), and strength of the conclusion (10%).
Cell phones

Please silence and do not answer cell phones during seminar discussions. If a cell phone rings audibly during seminar discussion, the owner of the phone will be required to bring cookies or alternative healthy treats for all seminar participants at the next meeting of the seminar.

Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on
how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

**University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

As a reminder, UF’s policy on plagiarism prohibits “reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.” If you are working on a project that might partially satisfy requirements in multiple classes, please consult with me and with the other professor(s) *prior* to starting your work. We will seek to determine the degree to which the distinct components of your project meet (or do not meet) the separate seminar requirements, and advise you accordingly. I will want to see the other seminar requirement/assignment.

**Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.
Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

- If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)  Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
- Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
Course Schedule

Prologue

August 23

- In our initial seminar meeting, we will review the course objectives and topics for discussion. We will also introduce datasets and some basic coding that students can use in modular assignments and in the preliminary data analysis for the final research paper.

Module 1 – Groups

August 30 – If you say so …


September 6

- No class – Labor Day

September 13


September 20

- Presentations of Data Analyses and Module Wrap-Up
**Review Essays on Groups**


**Additional Good stuff on Groups**


Module 2 – Political Socialization

September 27 - The Family as Group Influence (Mommy, have you seen my efficacy?)


October 4 – Socialization at Work


October 11


October 18

- Presentations of Data Analyses and Module Wrap-Up
**Review essays on political socialization**


**More good stuff on political socialization**


Module 3 - Personality

October 25 – It’s Just the Way I Am …


November 1 –


November 8 –

- Presentations of Data Analyses and Module Wrap-Up
Review Essays on Personality


Additionally, if you’re really into this stuff, see ...


Module 4 - Emotions

November 15 – I'm Mad as Hell, and I'm Not Going to Take It Anymore!


November 22


November 29

- Presentations of Data Analyses and Module Wrap-Up
Review Essays on Emotions


Additionally, if you're really into this stuff, see ...


Conover, Pamela Johnston and Stanley Feldman. 1986. “Emotional Reactions to the Economy: I'm Mad As Hell and I'm Not Going to Take It Anymore.” American Journal of Political Science 30 (1, February): 50-78.


Epilogue

December 6 – Presentations