

## **POL 209A: Research in American Politics**

**Winter 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Bianca V. Vicuña  
Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 11:50 am  
Location: Kerr 593  
Office: 576 Kerr Hall  
E-mail: [bvvicuna@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bvvicuna@ucdavis.edu)  
Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00 am to 11 am

### **Course Description**

Course Description: This course examines the psychological sources of group conflict and cooperation in U.S. politics. We will address questions such as: What is a social identity? Why do people identify with some social groups and not others? When and how do social identities become politicized? What effects social identities have on politics? What factors influence political conflict or political cooperation between and within different social groups in the U.S.?

### **Course Structure**

Each student will be graded according to four criteria.

#### **(1) Attendance and Active Participation (20%)**

Students are expected to attend each class and participate in *informed* discussions about the class materials.

I will take attendance every day at the beginning of class. I understand that life happens so each student has two free absences; no questions asked.

An informed discussion requires students to critically engage in the analysis of the theory, concepts, data, or methods used in the assigned work, as well as its relation to other course materials covered. To meet these goals, it is imperative that students complete assigned readings *prior* to attending class.

#### **(2) Weekly Memos (20%)**

Each student will write a one-page, double-spaced memo each week. Do not summarize the readings. I would like to engage in a critical analysis of any (or all) the assigned readings. What is your evaluation—a researcher—of the theory, concepts, data, or methods?

#### **(3) Research Proposal (40%)**

For this course, you will write a research proposal on any topic of your interests that relates to the course.

(4) Presentation (20%)

The last week of instruction students are expected to present their research proposal. This is a good exercise because you'll have to present your work at conferences.

Grade	
Attendance/Participation	20%
Weekly Memos (7 one-page memos)	20%
Research Proposal (10-page)	40%
Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Final Letter Grade	Final Score
A+	97-100
A	93-95
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	<60

## **Disabilities**

UC Davis encourages qualified students with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. *I am strongly committed to the same policy. If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact the Student Disability Center at (530) 752-3184 as soon as possible to identify and document your specific needs. Additionally, it is your responsibility to contact me privately immediately at the beginning of the quarter (i.e., within the first week) so we can discuss how to accommodate your needs.* Do not wait until just before an assignment deadline or an exam to inform me of a learning disability; any accommodations for disabilities must be arranged well in advance.

## **Sexual Harassment Resources**

UC Davis is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with several campus resources, including CARE (Center for Advocacy, Resources and Education) at (530) 752-3299 and Counseling Services at (530) 752-2349. More information here:

[http://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu/docs/sexual\\_violence\\_support\\_brochure\\_jul15.pdf](http://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu/docs/sexual_violence_support_brochure_jul15.pdf)

## **Mental Health and Self-Care**

Last, but certainly not least, it is important for all of us to tend to our own mental health throughout the quarter (and life!). Indeed, we cannot expect to do well in the classroom if we are not thinking about our own well-being from time to time.

You are encouraged to practice self-care so that you can remain focused and engaged. That might mean getting a drink of water, leaving to use the restroom, taking a moment to stretch, or doing something else you need to do to take care of yourself. College life can be overwhelming at times, but know that you are not alone if you're feeling stressed. UC Davis has mental health resources available for all students, and we strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the [Student Health and Counseling Services Center](#) for support. For many of us, systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, heterosexism or cissexism may also cause additional stress. Please remember to reach out for support if and when you need it.

You can also visit [Virtual UC Davis](#) to find resources related to health and well-being, academics, basic needs (food and housing) and more.

Week 1:  
The Basics of Group Behavior and Group Politics

1. Tajfel, Henri, and John C. Turner. 1986. "An Integrative Theory of Intergroup Conflict." In *The Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations.*, eds. William G. Austin and Stephen Worchel. Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole, 33–47.
2. Brewer, Marilynn B. 1991. "The Social Self: On Being the Same and Different at the Same Time." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 17(5): 475–82. doi:[10.1177/0146167291175001](https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167291175001).
3. Huddy, Leonie. 2001. "From Social to Political Identity: A Critical Examination of Social Identity Theory." *Political Psychology* 22(1): 127–56. doi:[10.1111/0162-895X.00230](https://doi.org/10.1111/0162-895X.00230).
4. Pérez, Efrén O., and Bianca V. Vicuña. 2023. "The Gaze from Below: Toward a Political Psychology of Minority Status." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, eds. Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, Jack S. Levy, and Jennifer Jerit. Oxford University Press, 919–44. doi:[10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197541302.013.24](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197541302.013.24).

Recommended:

5. Tajfel, Henri, M. G. Billig, R. P. Bundy, and Claude Flament. 1971. "Social Categorization and Intergroup Behaviour." *European Journal of Social Psychology* 1(2): 149–78. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420010202>.
6. Billig, Michael, and Henri Tajfel. 1973. "Social Categorization and Similarity in Intergroup Behaviour." *European Journal of Social Psychology* 3(1): 27–52. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420030103>.

Week 2  
Group Membership, Group Identity, Group Consciousness, and Linked Fate:  
Are They Different?

1. Gurin, Patricia. 1985. "Women's Gender Consciousness." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 49(2): 143–63. doi:[10.1086/268911](https://doi.org/10.1086/268911).
2. Gay, Claudine, Jennifer Hochschild, and Ariel White. 2016. "Americans' Belief in Linked Fate: Does the Measure Capture the Concept?" *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics* 1(1): 117–44. doi:[10.1017/rep.2015.3](https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2015.3).

3. Pérez, Efrén O. 2015. Ricochet: How Elite Discourse Politicizes Racial and Ethnic Identities. *Political Behavior* 37(1): 155-180.
4. Leach, Colin Wayne, Martijn van Zomeren, Sven Zebel, Michael L. W. Vliek, Sjoerd F. Pennekamp, Bertjan Doosje, Jaap W. Ouwerkerk, and Russell Spears. 2008. "Group-Level Self-Definition and Self-Investment: A Hierarchical (Multicomponent) Model of in-Group Identification." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 95(1): 144-65. doi:[10.1037/0022-3514.95.1.144](https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.95.1.144).
5. Lee, Taeku. 2008. Race, Immigration, and the Identity-to-Politics Link. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 457-478.
6. McClain, Paula D., Jessica D. Johnson Carew, Eugene Walton, Jr., and Candis S. Watts. 2009. Group Membership, Group Identity, and Group Consciousness: Measures of Racial Identity in American Politics? *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 471-485.

Recommended:

Dawson, Michael C. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 3  
Group Status

1. Kim, Claire Jean. 2001. The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans. In G.H. Chang, ed., *Asian American and Politics*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
2. Doosje, Bertjan, Russell Spears, and Naomi Ellemers. 2002. "Social Identity as Both Cause and Effect: The Development of Group Identification in Response to Anticipated and Actual Changes in the Intergroup Status Hierarchy." *British Journal of Social Psychology* 41(1): 57-76. doi:[10.1348/014466602165054](https://doi.org/10.1348/014466602165054).
3. Ellemers, Naomi, Russell Spears, and Bertjan Doosje. 1997. "Sticking Together or Falling Apart: In-Group Identification as a Psychological Determinant of Group Commitment versus Individual Mobility." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 72(3): 617-26. doi:[10.1037/0022-3514.72.3.617](https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.72.3.617).
4. Danbold, Felix, and Yuen J. Huo. 2015. "No Longer 'All-American'? Whites' Defensive Reactions to Their Numerical Decline." *Social Psychological and Personality Science* 6(2): 210-18. doi:[10.1177/1948550614546355](https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550614546355).

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Zou, Linda X., and Sapna Cheryan. 2017. "Two Axes of Subordination: A New Model of Racial Position." <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> 112(5): 696–717. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000080">10.1037/pspa0000080</a>.</li> <li>6. Pérez, Efrén, Crystal Robertson, and Bianca Vicuña. 2022. "Prejudiced When Climbing Up or When Falling Down? Why Some People of Color Express Anti-Black Racism." <i>American Political Science Review</i>: 1–16. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422000545">10.1017/S0003055422000545</a></li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 4 Group Norms</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jetten, Jolanda, Russell Spears, and Antony S. R. Manstead. 1997. "Strength of Identification and Intergroup Differentiation: The Influence of Group Norms." <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i> 27(5): 603–9. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1099-0992(199709/10)27:5&lt;603::AID-EJSP816&gt;3.0.CO;2-B">10.1002/(SICI)1099-0992(199709/10)27:5&lt;603::AID-EJSP816&gt;3.0.CO;2-B</a>.</li> <li>2. Masson, Torsten and Fritsche, Immo. 2019. "Loyal Peripherals? The Interactive Effects of Identification and Peripheral Group Membership on Deviance from Non-Beneficial Ingroup Norms." <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i> 49: 76–92.</li> <li>3. Badea, Constantina, Kevin R. Binning, D. Sherman, M. Boza, and Anna Kende. 2021. "Conformity to Group Norms: How Group-Affirmation Shapes Collective Action." <i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</i>. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JESP.2021.104153">10.1016/J.JESP.2021.104153</a>.</li> <li>4. White, Ismail K., and Chryl N. Laird. 2020. <i>Steadfast Democrats: How Social Forces Shape Black Political Behavior</i>. Princeton University Press. [Selected Chapters]</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 5 Navigating/Negotiating Multiple Identities</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gay, Claudine, and Katherine Tate. 1998. "Doubly Bound: The Impact of Gender and Race on the Politics of Black Women." <i>Political Psychology</i> 19(1): 169–84.</li> <li>2. García Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. <i>Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles</i>. University of California Press. Chapter 3.</li> <li>3. Ellemers, Naomi and Jetten, Jolanda. 2013. "The Many Ways to Be Marginal in a Group." <i>Personality and Social Psychology Review</i> 17(1): 3–21.</li> </ol>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simon, Bernd, and Bert Klandermans. 2001. "Politicized Collective Identity: A Social Psychological Analysis." <i>American Psychologist</i> 56(4): 319–31. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.56.4.319">10.1037/0003-066X.56.4.319</a>.</li> <li>Huddy, Leonie, Lilliana Mason, and S. Nechama Horwitz. 2016. "Political Identity Convergence: On Being Latino, Becoming a Democrat, and Getting Active." <i>RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences</i> 2(3): 205–28. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.7758/rsf.2016.2.3.11">10.7758/rsf.2016.2.3.11</a>.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 6 Intragroup Conflict</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohen, Cathy. 1999. <i>Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics</i>. The University of Chicago Press. [Selected Chapters]</li> <li>Flores, Natalia M., and Yuen J. Huo. 2013. "'We' Are Not All Alike: Consequences of Neglecting National Origin Identities Among Asians and Latinos." <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i> 4(2): 143–50. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550612449025">10.1177/1948550612449025</a>.</li> <li>Klar, Samara. 2018. "When Common Identities Decrease Trust: An Experimental Study of Partisan Women." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 62(3): 610–22.</li> <li>Pinto, Isabel R., José M. Marques, John M. Levine, and Dominic Abrams. 2010. "Membership Status and Subjective Group Dynamics: Who Triggers the Black Sheep Effect?" <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> 99(1): 107–19. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/a0018187">10.1037/a0018187</a>.</li> <li>Dovidio, John F., Samuel L. Gaertner, Elze G. Ufkes, Tamar Saguy, and Adam R. Pearson. 2016. "Included but Invisible? Subtle Bias, Common Identity, and the Darker Side of 'We.'" <i>Social Issues and Policy Review</i> 10(1): 6–46. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12017">https://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12017</a>.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 7 Intergroup Conflict</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bobo, Lawrence. 1983. "Whites' Opposition to Busing: Symbolic Racism or Realistic Group Conflict?" <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> 45(6): 1196–1210. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.45.6.1196">10.1037/0022-3514.45.6.1196</a>.</li> </ol>

2. Noel, Jeffrey G., Daniel L. Wann, and Nyla R. Branscombe. 1995. "Peripheral Ingroup Membership Status and Public Negativity toward Outgroups." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 68(1): 127–37. doi:[10.1037/0022-3514.68.1.127](https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.68.1.127).
3. Brewer, Marilynn B. 1999. "The Psychology of Prejudice: Ingroup Love and Outgroup Hate?" *Journal of Social Issues* 55(3): 429–44. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/0022-4537.00126>.
4. Craig, Maureen A., Tracy DeHart, Jennifer A. Richeson, and Luke Fiedorowicz. 2012. "Do Unto Others as Others Have Done Unto You?: Perceiving Sexism Influences Women's Evaluations of Stigmatized Racial Groups." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 38(9): 1107–19. doi:[10.1177/0146167212445210](https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167212445210).
5. Carter, Niambi M., and Efrén O. Pérez. 2016. "Race and Nation: How Racial Hierarchy Shapes National Attachments." *Political Psychology* 37(4): 497–513. doi:[10.1111/pops.12270](https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12270).
6. Margolis, Michele F. 2018. "How Far Does Social Group Influence Reach? Identities, Elites, and Immigration Attitudes." *The Journal of Politics* 80(3): 772–85. doi:[10.1086/693985](https://doi.org/10.1086/693985).

Week 8  
Intergroup Solidarity

1. Gaertner, Samuel L., John F. Dovidio, Phyllis A. Anastasio, Betty A. Bachman, and Mary C. Rust. 1993. "The Common Ingroup Identity Model: Recategorization and the Reduction of Intergroup Bias." *European Review of Social Psychology* 4(1): 1–26. doi:[10.1080/14792779343000004](https://doi.org/10.1080/14792779343000004).
2. Cortland, Clarissa I., Maureen A. Craig, Jenessa R. Shapiro, Jennifer A. Richeson, Rebecca Neel, and Noah J. Goldstein. 2017. "Solidarity through Shared Disadvantage: Highlighting Shared Experiences of Discrimination Improves Relations between Stigmatized Groups." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 113(4): 547–67. doi:[10.1037/pspi0000100](https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000100).
3. Craig, Maureen A., and Jennifer A. Richeson. 2016. "Stigma-Based Solidarity: Understanding the Psychological Foundations of Conflict and Coalition Among Members of Different Stigmatized Groups." *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 25(1): 21–27. doi:[10.1177/0963721415611252](https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721415611252).
4. TBA



<p>Week 9</p> <p>Intragroup Solidarity</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barreto, Manuela, and Naomi Ellemers. 2002. "The Impact of Respect Versus Neglect of Self-Identities on Identification and Group Loyalty." <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i> 28(5): 629–39. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167202288007">10.1177/0146167202288007</a>.</li> <li>2. Pérez, Efrén O., Maggie Deichert, and Andrew M. Engelhardt. 2019. "E Pluribus Unum? How Ethnic and National Identity Motivate Individual Reactions to a Political Ideal." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 81(4): 1420–33. doi:<a href="https://doi.org/10.1086/704596">10.1086/704596</a>.</li> <li>3. TBA</li> </ol>
<p>Week 10</p>
<p>Student Presentations</p>