

New School – internet course for Fall 2010

Sept. 1st (Wed) to Dec. 24th (Fri) in US

From Course Outline in NS Bulletin:

What to do in September before the Austrians join us:

Introduction to Blackboard

Students introduce themselves

I introduce myself and introduce my research on authoritarianism (Jugend und Autoritaet)

1. Students from Salzburg & NY
 - students and faculty introduce themselves to each other, course expectations
2. Discipline of Political Psychology
 - “What is Political Psychology?” by M. Hermann
 - “Politics and Psychology, a Two-Way Street” Stone and Schaffneer
3. Mass violence
 - “Trends in Authoritarianism” by G. Lederer,
 - “Crimes of Obedience” H. Kelman and V.L. Hamilton
 - Recent research: “Disobeying an Illegitimate Request in a Democratic or Authoritarian System,” S. Passini and D. Morselli Political Psychology June 2010, p.341
4. Roots of Prejudice
 - TAP, Allport, Robins & Post
5. Anti-Semitism today -in the US, in Austria, world wide...
6. Reconciliation
7. Psychology
8. Political science
9. History and sociology

10. Origins of violence and aggression

11. Altruism

 “The Altruistic Personality,” S. Oliner and P. Oliner

12. Reconciliation

13. Student papers..

14. Student papers..

Collaborative papers of Austrian and US students juxtaposing views to be presented to class and discussed on line (perhaps 10, presenting 2 each week for last two or three weeks with suggested reading assignments?)

SYLLABUS

Political Psychology: Mass Killings, Reconciliation, Forgiveness, and Altruism
NPSY3836 - 15 weeks, August 20-December 20, 20010 - ONLINE
Instructors: Gerda Lederer and Albert Lichtblau

Course Description

This course brings together students from the University of Salzburg in Austria and the New School to study together some of the most urgent problems confronting the world today. Guided by insights from political psychology, students investigate cases of mass violence and reconciliation. Political psychology promotes an interdisciplinary understanding of political processes and human relationships, drawing on the disciplines of political science and psychology as well as the methods of sociology, history, and economics. Students use this perspective to research the origins of violence, aggression, and altruism. The class also compares cultural perceptions of these phenomena in Austria and the United States. The language of instruction is English.

Reading List

The following reading material has been provided to the New School's Digital Library and will be available to students on Blackboard.

1. "What is Political Psychology?" by M. Hermann, pp.1-10 in "Political Psychology," Jossey-Bass Inc 1986.
2. "Politics and Psychology, a Two-Way Street," pp.23-45 in Stone and Schaffner, "The Psychology of Politics," Free Press 1974.
3. "Trends in Authoritarianism," by Gerda Lederer, in "Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology," Vol. 13, No. 3, September 1982, pp. 299-314.
4. "The origins of genocide and mass killings, core concepts," Chapter 2, pp.13-34; "Cultural and individual characteristics," Chapter 4, pp.51-66; and Chapter 11, pp 151-169, "The behavior and psychology of bystanders and victims," in "The Roots of Evil," by Ervin Staub, Cambridge University Press 1989.
5. "The Need for Enemies - Nationalism, Terrorism, and Paranoid Mass Movements," Chapter 4, pp. 89-112, in "Political Paranoia" by R.S. Robins and J.M.Post, Yale University Press 1997.
6. "Behavioral Study of Obedience," pp.23-51 by Stanley Milgram and "A Study of Prisoners and Guards in a Simulated Prison," pp.52-67 by C. Harney, C. Banks, and P. Zimbardo, in "Readings about The Social Animal" edited by Elliot Aronson, Freeman and Company 1972.
7. "The Duty to Obey and the Duty to Disobey," Chapter 3, pp 53-76, in "Crimes of Obedience" by H. Kelman and V.L. Hamilton, Yale University Press 1989.
8. "Disobeying an Illegitimate Request in a Democratic or Authoritarian System," S. Passini and D. Morselli in Political Psychology, June 2010, p.341.
9. "Moral Heroism and Extensivity," Chapter 10, pp 249-260 in Oliner and Oliner, "The Altruistic Personality," The Free Press, Macmillan 1988.
10. In "Father Land" by Bertram Schaffner, p. v – 41 (Preface by Margaret Mead,) "The German Father," "The German Mother," Columbia University Press 1948.