

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICS AND THE MIND

Country

France

Host Institution

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)

Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Psychology Political Science

UCEAP Course Number

117

UCEAP Course Suffix

P

UCEAP Official Title

POLITICS AND THE MIND

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICS & THE MIND

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

What are the roots of the animosity between liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans in the United States? To what extent are we predisposed to racism and xenophobia and what can we do to remedy it? Why are our minds so prone to conspiratorial thinking? Why are political activists often hypocritical? Why do we often not practice the principles we preach (eat less meat)? Those questions lie at the core of political psychology, a field at the crossroads of cognitive and social science, to which this course introduces. The course emphasizes that human cognition is shaped by social goals of influencing others, fitting in tribes, and enhancing our personal reputations. It also strives to explain political behaviors from the "proximal" level of analysis (psychological mechanisms and social influences) but also from the "ultimate" level of analysis (the evolutionary selection pressures that shaped our minds through natural selection).

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

DSPO 25A86

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICS AND THE MIND

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/en/?202520/291233>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

Political Science

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)