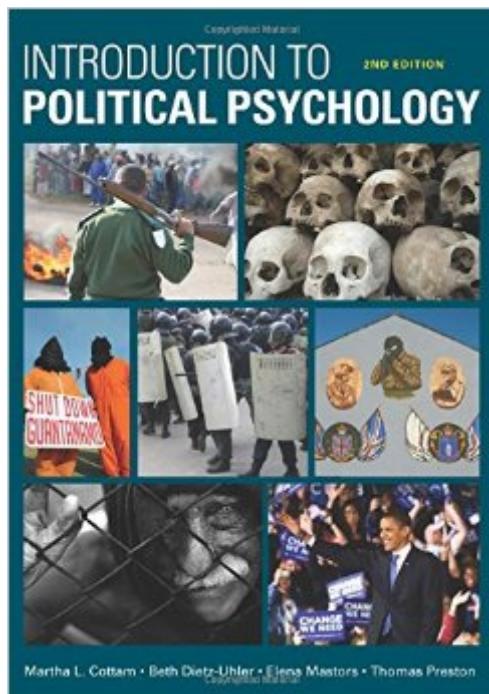


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Introduction To Political Psychology: 2nd Edition



Synopsis

This comprehensive, user-friendly introductory textbook to political psychology explores the psychological origins of political behavior. The authors introduce readers to a broad range of theories, concepts, and case studies of political activity to illustrate that behavior. The book examines many patterns of political behaviors, including leadership, group behavior, voting, race, ethnicity, nationalism, terrorism, war, and genocide. It explores some of the most horrific things people do to one another for political purposes, as well as how to prevent and resolve conflict -- and how to recover from it. The goal is to help the reader understand the enormous complexity of human behavior and the significant role political psychology can play in improving the human condition. The book contains numerous pedagogical features, including text boxes highlighting current and historical events to help students see the connection between the world around them and the concepts they are learning. Different research methodologies used in the discipline are employed, such as experimentation and content analysis. The "Political Being" is used throughout to remind the reader of the psychological theories and concepts to be explored in each chapter. New to the second edition is coverage of recent political events, including the 2008 US presidential election, Darfur, Iraq, and Afghanistan. There are now separate chapters on race, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, and conflict resolution. In addition, instructor resources are available online. This accessible and engaging introductory textbook is suitable as a primary text on a range of upper-level courses in political psychology, political behavior, and related fields, including policymaking.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Two years ago, while doing research to teach an undergraduate course in Political Psychology, the choices were slim and none. Several books of edited chapters were available, but for an undergraduate course, I wanted a textbook that would provide structure to the field. Cottam, et al have done an admirable job of marrying basic psychological processes to political applications. Well written and informative, I would recommend this as a textbook for upper division students in Psychology and Political Science. WARNING: take Social Psychology first. You won't understand the theoretical underpinnings without Social Psychology.

This book is very recommended for anyone interested in politics, psychology, the reasons behind political actions and of course those taking beginner classes in political psychology. The book is in an easy readable style and motivates you to learn various psychological concepts such as perception, emotions, cognition, group, etc. The book is well structured in focusing on the individual and then on the group. A chapter on leadership helps better understand presidential behavior. In the second part (Ch. 6-10) many of the concepts are applied to specific areas of interest to political scientists: voting and the media, race and ethnicity, nationalism, political extremism and international relations. Each chapter concludes with a list of key terms (which are also bold within the text). At the end of the book, all terms are listed for quick reference. However since this book is merely introductory, it will make you want to read more on the interesting topics. The literature lists at the end of each chapter give a good start for further research! Definitely recommended! 5 out of 5 stars

This is one of a handful of college courses/textbooks that has stuck with me for the six years or more since I took Dr. Cottam's course. I took the course right out of the gate, first semester of university, with no other preparation (I agree with the guy who says that for best results you should probably know some social psychology first—but the book is good enough that you could survive without it!). At the time I was baffled, but the concepts were explained so clearly and with such good examples that when I did have more context later on (ie: became less ignorant) for the material, it all clicked. I still think about the ideas presented by Cottam et al and refer back to this book. Highly recommend!!

Excellent account of human behavior on those who run for and win political office. an educational reminder of who's really in charge in any home kitchen, wall street board room or just hanging out

enjoying conversation with friends in some coffee shop.

I took a class from the professor who wrote this book, and it was a breeze to compile essays from the very clear, coherent text. I'm not very interested in politics, and this made concepts and motivations very easy to understand, and with highlighted vocab words and key concepts laid out, it was simple to digest academically.

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