**IOP 2206 POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Duration of the Course:** The course is 3 Credit Units providing 45 Contact Hours.

**Course Description:**

How do average citizens think about politics and role that emotions play in political decision making? These and a host of other political questions ranging from how people interpret political questions and make political decisions to the role emotions, identities and analogies playing forming opinions and evaluating political options will form the central focus of this course.

**Course objective(s)**

To expose students to a number of connecting points between psychology and politics.

**Course Content**

Foundations of political psychology; Political beliefs, affect and behavior; Identity and conflict; Group dynamics and conflict resolution; Psychology of peace building and reconciliation; Political violence and terrorism; War theory; and World views.

**Teaching methods**

Lectures, Group work assignments, Seminar presentations and discussions, Writing papers. **Assessment**

* Evaluation of exercises, assignments and written papers during the semester.
* Assessment of end of course exam

**Learning outcomes**

**Key References**

1. Kuklinski, J.H. (2002). Thinking about political psychology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Jost, J.T. & Sidanius, J. (2004). Political Psychology. New York: Psychology Press.
3. Hook, D. (2004).Critical Psychology. Cape Town: UCT Press
4. ----------------------
5. ----------------------