

Take-Home Midterm  
PS 377: Political Behavior

## Instructions

You have 3 hours to complete the exam. Compose your answers in a Word document and email your exam to travis.johnston@umb.edu. The exam is open note and open book. In Section 1, answer 2 of the 3 questions. In Section 2, answer 3 of the 4 questions. Each question is worth 10 points (50 points total).

## Section 1

Answer 2 of the following.

1. What is the classic twin design? What core assumption is needed to draw empirical conclusions from such a study? Why might this assumption not hold?
2. What is the agentic state and how do people behave when in this state? Why do people enter and remain in this state?
3. What is the Five Factor Model or Big Five? Which two traits consistently predict different ideological leanings? What is one reason we should be skeptical of such findings?

## Section 2

Answer 3 of the following.

1. If people are cognitive misers, then how do they make decisions? Under what conditions are people capable of making the *right* decision quickly? Provide an example of when a decision-making shortcut is likely to be successful, and an example of when they are less helpful.
2. When are people more likely to behave in a self-interested fashion? How do these conditions help explain why a low-income individual might a) support a Republican officeholder that campaigns on repealing Obamacare in 2016, and b) also attend protests in 2017 against ending the Medicaid expansion program that provides health care to low-income groups? If self-interest does not explain candidate support, then what does?
3. Why are people reluctant to believe news accounts that criticize their party? Would independents who lean towards one party behave the same way? How are such findings inconsistent with the idea that people are generally rational?
4. In 2016, the UK decided to leave the European Union, an economic and political union that had brought great prosperity at times, but was perceived as too costly of late. What is prospect theory and how does it help us understand why British voters decided to leave the EU? Why didn't Brexit happen in late 2007, when the British economy was relatively strong?