Faculty mentor:
Jon Krosnick

Research supervisor(s) (name, position, email):
Jon Krosnick, krosnick@stanford.edu

Project topic(s):
The Psychology of Americans' Political Attitudes and Decisions

Brief description of scientific issues:
In order to understand why American political events unfold as they do, political social psychologists want to understand the forces that cause some citizens to choose to vote in national elections, the forces that shape their candidate preferences, the factors that influence people's preferences regarding what government should do on specific policy issues, the factors that inspire citizens to become politically active and pressure government, and more.

The Political Psychology Research Group at Stanford is a large team of undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, visiting scholars, and staff exploring all these issues to generate academic publications and to write white papers to disseminate research findings to the non-academic community. Each summer, we engage a large group of undergraduates to work with us on a variety of projects.

Skills required:
No special background is necessary for an undergrad to join our team, although comfort with mathematical/statistical write-ups and some experience with statistics and social psychology would help allow you to take on more challenging projects. This appointment is just right for students interested in close collaboration with a faculty member and a fun and challenging summer. Students who have statistical skills may be able to lead original analyses of existing data to write papers for publication.

Skills to be learned:
A wide array of research skills, including study design, data collection procedures, statistical data analysis, and report writing.