Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0006)
Pollock / Fall 2011

Office	302 Phillips Hall
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Required books	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition* Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 4th Edition*
Recommended	Rent IBM® SPSS® Statistics Base GradPack 19 (see below)

In this course you will learn the elements of social scientific thinking—how to describe variables and measure complex concepts, how to create explanations, how to construct and test hypotheses, how to think analytically, and how to control for rival explanations of political phenomena. You also will learn SPSS, data analysis software that is installed in many labs on campus.

There are other sections of this course. **However, you must attend class during the assigned time of the section for which you are registered.**

The CD in the required workbook, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, contains the datasets you will be analyzing. **The CD does not contain the SPSS software.** To complete the workbook assignments and take-home exams, you must use a lab computer OR rent the software and install it on your PC or laptop.

To rent SPSS for 6 months:
http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/ProductSearchOfferingList.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&srch=statistics+base&utm_source=LandingPage-SPSS-Statistics-Base-19&utm_medium=LandingPage&utm_campaign=SPSS

Requirements. Your course grade will be based on three components: Attendance (15 percent), Assignments (25 percent), and Exams (60 percent).

Attendance. 15 percent. Attendance is required. Do not arrive late or leave early. Late arrivals count as absences. Early departures count as absences.

Assignments. **25 percent**. You will be given regular assignments during the term. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. Do not put assignments in my office mailbox. **Do not email or fax your assignments**. Late assignments receive zero points. No make-up assignments. No extra credit.

Exams. 60 percent. There will be four exams during the term—two in-class exams (20 percent each) and two take-home exams (10 percent each). No early exams. No make-up exams. The exams will follow this schedule:

Exam:	Taken or Due on:
In-class exam I	October 11
Take-home exam I	October 18
In-class exam II	December 6 (7 p. m.)
Take-home exam II	December 6 (7 p. m.)

Grading Scale. Your course grade will be determined by this numeric scale:

>=90	87-89	80-86	77-79	70-76	67-69	60-66	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

Schedule for the term.

Week of	**Topic**	***Essentials***	***Companion***
Aug23 Aug30 Sep6	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
Sep13	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Sep20 Sep27	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Oct4	Making comparisons		Ch4
Oct11 **Oct18**	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Oct18 Oct25	Research design	Ch4	
Nov1	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Nov8 Nov15	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Nov22	Foundations of inference	Ch6	
Nov29	Tests of significance and measures of association	Ch7	Ch6, Ch7
Dec6 **Dec6**	**7 p. m. In-class exam II** **7 p. m. Take-home exam II due***		

*Take-home exam II due *no later than* date shown. Early exams will be accepted.