Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0001)
Pollock / Spring 2012

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Books	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition* + *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 4th Edition Package* (ISBN: 978-1-60871-920-4)

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.

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. I repeat for emphasis: 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.

If you wish to rent the SPSS software (6-month rental is $40):
For **Windows**, follow this link:
http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&o=2d645414-70f9-df11-9c87-0030487d8897
For **Mac**, follow this link:
http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&o=0477a355-182b-e111-8d82-f04da23e67f6

In order to do well in this course, you must have a thorough grasp of the reading, the lecture material, and the computer software. This is very important. Come to class every day. Take good notes. Ask questions. If you do not understand an idea or topic, visit me during office hours or send me an email.

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	February 28
Take-home exam I	March 1
In-class exam II	April 24 (8 a.m.)
Take-home exam II	April 24 (8 a.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.

Class of:	**Topic**	***Essentials***	***Companion***
Jan10 Jan12 Jan17 Jan19	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
Jan24 Jan26 Jan31	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Feb2 Feb7 Feb9	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Feb14 Feb16 Feb21 Feb23	Making comparisons		Ch4
Feb28 **Mar1** *[Break]*	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Mar13 Mar15 Mar20	Research design	Ch4	
Mar22 Mar27 Mar29	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Apr3 Apr5 Apr10	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Apr12 Apr17 Apr19	Inference and measures of association	Ch6, Ch7	Ch7
April 24 **April 24**	**In-class exam II (8 a.m.)** **Take-home exam II due (8 a.m.)**		