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

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	MW: 12:30-2:30 / F:10:30-11:20
Voice	407-823-2608
Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
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 20 (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.

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 10
Take-home exam I	October 12
In-class exam II	December 3
Take-home exam II	December 5 (7 a. m.)

In-class exams are held during regularly scheduled class times. Take-home exams are available immediately following in-class exams and are downloaded from the course site. Take-home exam I is due October 12 at the beginning of class. Take-home exam II is due *no later than* December 5 at 7 a.m. in our regular classroom.

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***
Aug20 Aug27 [Sep3]	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	*No class Aug31*, Sep3***
Sep10	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Sep17 Sep24	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Oct1 Oct8	Making comparisons		Ch4
Oct10 **Oct12**	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Oct15 Oct22	Research design	Ch4	
Oct29	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	*No class Oct31**
Nov5 [Nov12]	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5 *No class Nov12***
Nov19	Foundations of inference	Ch6	*No class Nov23***
Nov26	Correlation and linear regression	Ch8	Ch6, Ch7
Dec3 **Dec5**	**In-class exam II** **Take-home exam II due, 7 a.m.*****		

*Instructor at conference.
**University holiday.
***Take-home exam II due *no later than* date shown. Early exams will be accepted.