POS 3703: SCOPE AND METHODS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall 2012
Tue 6:00-8:50 pm, BC 351

Professor: Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey
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Office Hours: ***Cocoa***: Tuesday 3:00-5:00 PM;
Orlando: Monday 10:00 AM-Noon & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM;
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the logic and methods of social science research in general and political science in particular. Emphasis will be placed on the logic of research design and data analysis. Students learn techniques of quantitative analysis including statistical inference, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis, and analyze political datasets using statistical software.

TEXTS AND READINGS:

Philip H. Pollock III. 2012. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 4th Edition. Washington D.C.: CQ Press

Philip H. Pollock III. 2012. *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*. 4th Edition. Washington D.C.: CQ Press

Additional readings will be provided to students at class meetings.

SOFTWARE:

We will be using SPSS in this course. I assume that you have no prior experience with this software. Laboratory sessions will be conducted using the Mobile Lab. These sessions will introduce students to the software and provide time to address questions related to the lectures and assignments.

Cocoa: SPSS is available in the BCC/UCF Joint-Use Computer Laboratory located in Suite 184.
Also, SPSS is installed in two computers at the BCC/UCF Joint-Use Library
(Mon-Thurs 8:00 AM-8:00 PM; Fri 9:00 AM-1:00 PM)

Computer Lab Hours	Suite 184, Building 3 (321) 433-7971
Monday – Thursday	10:30 AM—6:30 PM

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Course grades are determined by ten homework assignments and two in-class **open-book** exams. Assignments are to be turned in by 6 PM on the days specified in the syllabus. Except for cases involving overriding and well documented personal reasons, all late work will be accepted only if submitted within one week following the assignment's due date and will be subjected to a penalty of one letter grade.

There will be two open-book exams. Each exam will cover the portion of the course preceding it. The second exam will not be a comprehensive final exam.

Grades are a weighted average of the following requirements:

Requirement:	Weight:
1. Ten Assignments	50%
2. Two Exams	50%

The plus/minus grading system will apply in this course.

Students must fulfill the following tasks:
1. Complete reading assignments on time.
2. Complete **ten** assignments on time.
3. Take **two** open-book exams in class: an exam on *Tuesday, October 16*, and a second exam on *Tuesday, December 11*.

There will be **no** "extra work/credit" to improve your grade. If you think you are failing the course, please contact the professor right away.

A grade of "**I**" is only given in cases of extreme emergency or special & well documented circumstances late in the semester, provided that you have been making satisfactory progress. In order to be considered for an "I", students **must** contact and make arrangements with the professor prior to the scheduled final exam on **December 11, 2010**.

Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371 TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116**.**

<u>Please note</u> that <u>no laptops</u> (<u>or substitutes</u>) will be used in class other than the Mobile Lab laptops.

If there is anything in the syllabus that is unclear**, <u>it is up to the student to contact the professor for clarification</u>.** Also, it is the student's responsibility to be informed of any announcements made in class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Note</u>: This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class. <u>Students are responsible for any changes in syllabus/schedule which are announced in class</u>.

<u>Reading assignments in the schedule refer to *The Essentials of Political Analysis*</u>*

Week	**Topics Covered:**	**Assignments:**
August 21	Introduction to Course	
August 28	Scientific Study: Elements of Research	Pollock: *Essentials of Political Analysis** Introduction Chapter 1, pp. 6-14 Chapter 3, pp. 48-58 Chapter 4, pp. 84-97
September 4	Research Design: Experiments	Pollock: Chapter 4 (review pp. 84-97) ***Assignment 1 Due: 9/4***
September 11	Measurement Sampling ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 1, pp. 14-22 Chapter 2, pp. 28-32 Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 122-128 ***Assignment 2 Due: 9/11***
September 18	Description of Data ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 2, pp. 32-44; Chapter 6, pp. 128-133 ***Assignment 3 Due: 9/18***
September 25	Probability The Normal Distribution	Reading to be distributed in class Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 133-140

		Assignment 4 Due: 9/25
October 2	Inference ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 140-151 ***Assignment 5 Due: 10/2***
October 9	Locating Data **<u>Review for First Exam</u>**	
October 16	**First Exam**	**First Exam: Tuesday, October 16**
October 23	Hypothesis Testing Error Types ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 7, pp. 155-164
October 30	Contingency Tables ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 3, pp. 58-63 Chapter 5 Chapter 7, pp. 164-169 ***Assignment 6 Due: 10/30***
November 6	Correlation ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 182-187 ***Assignment 7 Due: 11/6***
November 13	Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 187-196 ***Assignment 8 Due: 11/13***
November 20	Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock, Chapter 8, pp. 196-201 ***Assignment 9 Due: 11/20***
November 27	***Show & Tell*** **<u>Review for Second Exam</u>**	***Assignment 10 Due: 11/27***
December 11	***Second Exam***	Second Exam: Tuesday, December 11