Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0001)
Pollock / Spring 2013

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Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
Books	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition +* *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 4th Edition Package*
Recommended	Rent SPSS (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.** 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.

To rent SPSS for 6 months ($36 + $4.99 download fee):

- Windows: http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&o=82d8b58e-1c0f-e211-bd05-f04da23e67f6
- Mac: http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&o=7ad8b58e-1c0f-e211-bd05-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	Feb26
Take-home exam I	Feb28
In-class exam II	Apr18
Take-home exam II	April 30 @ 9:00 a.m.

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

Course average	*Letter grade*
90-above	A
87-89	B+
80-86	B
77-79	C+
70-76	C
67-69	D+
60-66	D
59-below	F

Schedule for the term.

Class of:	*Topic*	*Essentials*	*Companion*
Jan8 Jan10 Jan15 Jan17	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
Jan22 Jan24 Jan29	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Jan31 Feb5 *[No class Feb7*]*	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Feb12 Feb14 Feb19 Feb21	Making comparisons		Ch4
Feb26 **Feb28** *[Break]*	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Mar12 Mar14	Research design	Ch4	
Mar19 Mar21	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Mar26 Mar28	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Apr2 Apr4	Inference and measures of association	Ch6, Ch7	Ch7
Apr9 Apr16 *[No class Apr11*]*	Regression analysis	Ch8	Ch8
April 18 **April 30**	**In-class exam II** **Take-home exam II due, 9:00 a.m.**		

*Instructor at conference.