Scope and Methods of Political Science --POS3703
Section 0006 T-TH 3:00 to 4:15, Section 0007 T-TH 1:30 to 2:45
Dr. Jesse Marquette / Fall, 2013

Classroom: Philips Hall 310
Office Hours: Tuesday 12 to 1:30, Thursday 4:15 to 5 pm. Other hours by appointment.
Email: Jesse.Marquette@ucf.edu Note: I will only reply to e-mails sent from your UCF e-mail, personal accounts such as gmail, hotmail, aol etc. will be ignored.

Required texts:

Pollock, The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition. Abbr: Essentials
Wheelan, Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data., 1st Edition Abbr. Naked

Course Goals

This course will examine how the processes of scientific research are applied to the study of politics. You will learn the meaning and use of terms such as "dependent variable", "generalization", "validity" and their significance in generating reliable knowledge about political behavior. You will explore the way human beings think and how heuristics, schema and fallible memory impact belief systems. You will learn how to turn your ideas about how politics works into testable propositions that can be verified by others, that is, you will learn how we claim to produce "knowledge". You also will learn techniques of statistical data analysis using ***SPSS***. The ***S***tatistical ***P***ackage for the ***S***ocial ***S***ciences is a widely used software package in business and science, so mastery of its protocols will be of use in many of your career options. The software is available in campus labs although some students choose to rent from on-line vendors.

Requirements.

Your course grade will be based on five components: attendance, two project assignments and two examinations. The total points assigned will be 450.

Attendance: 50 points. Attendance is required. Do not arrive late or leave early. You will lose 10 points for each absence. There will be material covered in lecture that does not appear in the texts..

Assignments: 200 points. You will be given two projects during the term, each valued at 100 points. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date and must be turned in directly to me. You will lose 5 points for each day an assignment is late. Formal instruction sheets for each project will be provided in class. Please pay close attention to the instructions, they are provided for your benefit. Each project should result in an *approximately* 10 page report on the results of your research. I do not weigh the papers or count the pages, I actually read them.

The basic project descriptions are:

Project 1 – Research a specific concept and its potential causes. Select/develop appropriate operational definitions, develop a testable hypothesis about the behavior and produce an appropriate hypothesis test.

Project 2 – Research a specific concept and select/develop appropriate operational definitions, develop testable hypotheses about behavior and conduct an appropriate multiple linear or logistic regression analysis.

Exams: 200 points. There will be two exams during the term each of which will count as 100 points. No early exams. No make-up exams. The exam days are noted in the course schedule. The second exam is the final. Exams are mixed form and will last for one and one quarter hours. The final is cumulative. If an appropriate medical excuse is provided I may allow you to double weight the final in place of a missed mid-term.

No Incompletes will be given in this course except for documented medical reasons. This syllabus may be amended or modified in any way upon notice; most such changes will affect the Course Schedule, so be sure that you know if any due dates change.

Grading Scale

Your course grade will be based on following numeric scale, the numbers represent percentage of total points.

<=93	**90-92**	**87-89**	**83-86**	**80-82**	**77-79**	**73-76**	**70-72**	**67-69**	**63-66**	**60-62**	**>=59**
A	**A-**	**B+**	**B**	**B-**	**C+**	**C**	**C-**	**D+**	**D**	**D-**	**F**

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Dishonesty

All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. “Rewriting,” in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an “F” for that assignment and may also lead to an “F” for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating may subject a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Classroom Behavior

Proper classroom behavior is expected at all times. Students must follow UCF standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in The Golden Rule. As a matter of common courtesy, please arrive on time prepared to stay for the entire class, and do not engage in conversation other than appropriate to the material at hand. Turn off cell phones and pagers before coming to class. Food and drink are discouraged in the classroom. Students who use class time to conduct IM/e-mail/Internet sessions will lose attendance credit for that class.

Disability Accommodation

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

The date listed for each week's reading assignment is the **Monday** of that week.

Week	Date	Topic	Essentials	Naked
1	8/19	Elements of Research Design: Concepts and Operational Definitions	Intro	Intro & Ch 1
2	8/26	Approaches to Research Design: Generalizations, Theory and Designs	Ch 1	
3	9/2	Data and Measurement: Items, Scales and Indices	Ch 2	Ch 7
4	9/9	Data Sources and Descriptive Statistics	Ch 3	Ch 2 & 3
5	9/16	Variation, Explanation, Comparison and Control	Ch 4	Ch 5, 5.2 &6
6	9/23	Statistical Control for Competing Explanations	Ch 5	Ch 10
7	9/30	Sampling and Inference	Ch 6	Ch 8
8	10/7	Mid Term Examination and Statistical Tests of Hypothesis		Ch 9
9	10/14	Data Transformation - Project 1 Due		
10	10/21	Tests for Interval Data		
11	10/28	Tests for Categorical Data	Ch 7	
12	11/4	Measures of Association		Ch 4
13	11/11	Correlation and Regression I	Ch 8	Ch 11
14	11/18	Correlation and Regression II		Ch 12
15	11/25	Logistic Regression	Ch 9&10	Ch 13 & Conclusion
		Final Examination as per University Schedule – Section 7: T-TH- 1:30 to 2:45 – Exam 12/10 from 1:00 to 3:50 Section 6: T-TH- 3 to 4:15 – Exam 12/5 from 1:00 to 3:50 Project 2 Due		

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First Project Instructions and Paper Layout

The purpose of the first project is to demonstrate your mastery of basic research design and simple tests of hypothesis. You should choose a research topic that is of interest to you based on your sub-area of Political Science.

1) You may find or create data sets depending on your topic or interest. For example you may wish to download data sets from the ICPSR or the use data from the online tables of the Statistical Abstract of the U.S**.**

a. Conduct a literature review to develop your conceptual and operational definitions.
b. Define a generalization such as: Citizens have different perceptions of Hillary Clinton as a result of their gender.
c. Render that statement as a testable hypothesis using appropriate variables: e.g. Males will have a lower average thermometer score for Hillary Clinton than females.

2) Have your generalization and corresponding hypothesis approved by the instructor.
3) Match your operational definitions with variables defined in published data sets or create your own, checking your progress with the instructor.
4) Conduct an appropriate statistical test of your hypothesis
5) Citations are APA style of citation in text e.g. (Author, date) or (Author, date, page).
6) The project is due in class the week of October 14.

Paper outline:

Introduction: Briefly describe the problem you are researching and why it is interesting.

Literature review: Discuss the existing research on your topic and describe how it contributed to your understanding of the concepts and your operational definitions.

Hypothesis: Clearly state your research hypothesis as a simple declarative statement ***under a separate section head***.

Data and methods: Describe your data sources and why the material you are using constitute meaningful operational definitions of your major concepts. Describe what statistical procedure you are using to test your hypothesis and why it is appropriate.

Analysis: Conduct an appropriate analysis and discuss your application of the procedures in detail. For this project I expect cross-tabulations with Chi-square, ***OR*** means tests or equivalent as appropriate for your research design and the level of measurement of your data.

Results: What was the outcome of your test from an analytic stand point.

Conclusion: What is the meaning of the result for your original research question.

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Paper Requirements for Second Project

This project is to conduct a multiple linear regression or multiple logistic regression analysis on data for a topic of interest to you. Linear regression generally assumes an additive relationship between the dependent and an appropriate set of independent variables. That is, the dependent variable is expressed as a function of the set of independent variables. Linear regression assumes the dependent variable is continuous, basic logistic regression assumes the dependent variable is dichotomous.

Paper format:

Introduction: ***Briefly*** describe the problem you are researching and why it is interesting.

Literature review: Discuss the existing research (at least 3 articles or books) on your topic and describe how it contributed to your understanding of the concepts and your operational definitions. Be sure to follow proper procedure on citations and quotation when using another author's work. Citation format should follow APA style (Author, date) or (Author, date, page). Be sure to include complete reference in bibliography.

Hypothesis: Clearly state your research hypothesis ***under a separate section head.***
Your hypothesis should require one dependent and at least two (2) independent variables

Data and methods: Describe your data sources and why the material you are using constitute meaningful operational definitions of your major concepts. Be sure all of the variables you will be employing are at the interval level of measurement or are dummy coded appropriately for use in a regression analysis. ***You must create or find a data set appropriate for you to do your own regression, do not just copy other scholar's tables. Provide the data source citation for each variable.***

Results: 1) Display appropriate descriptive statistics for all variables,
2) Provide histograms for each variable and scatter-plots of the dependent with each independent variable,
3) Provide complete regression results for your test.

Describe and discuss all the above, in detail. Display all relevant computer output as tables or figures in the body of the paper, not in separate appendices. ***Do not*** list all the data in the body of the paper, but be sure it is available if I have questions.

Verify that there are not major violations of the assumptions of the procedure. Clearly describe the outcome of your test from a statistical standpoint, i.e. do you reject the overall null or not. If you do reject the overall null, are all the individual independent variables significant.

Conclusion: What is the meaning of the result for your original research question.

POS3703 - Midterm Examination - Dr. Marquette - *Example*

Note: This is an example, not a complete exam.

All answers are to be entered in your blue book. Place your name and section on the outside of the blue book and indicate which test version you have (A or B). For each short answer or essay indicate the question you think you are answering. Return the exam with the test.

Section 1 - Short Answer - Choose 10 - 5 points each - 50 points total

1. Distinguish between the intension and extension of a concept.
2. Field experiment.
3. Frequency table.
4. Bimodal distribution.
5. Distinguish between ordinal and interval measurement.

Section 2 - Essay 100 points - Choose 1.

Analyze ONE of the following tables - E.G. Which variable is dependent? What is the apparent hypothesis? Was it successful? How do you interpret the result? Describe and discuss.

Table A Relates highest degree earned by respondent's father and respondents income.

FATHERS HIGHEST DEGREE	RESPONDENT INCOME
HIGH SCHOOL	$32749.20
JUNIOR COLLEGE	$33046.50
BACHELOR	$40445.73
GRADUATE	$42699.98

Table B Relates respondent's highest degree to their political ideology

Respondents HIGHEST DEGREE by 3 Category Ideology

Figures are % within R's HIGHEST DEGREE

		Respondent Ideology		
R's	HIGHEST DEGREE	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
	LT HIGH SCHOOL	17.5%	60.6%	21.9%
	HIGH SCHOOL	13.5%	66.5%	20.0%
	JUNIOR COLLEGE	11.9%	67.8%	20.3%
	BACHELOR	19.1%	59.5%	21.4%
	GRADUATE	28.2%	54.7%	17.2%

Final Examination– POS 3703- Scope and Methods– Dr. Marquette– *Sample*

Note: this is a sample, not a complete exam.

All answers are to be entered in your blue book. Place your name and section on the outside of the blue book and indicate which test version you have (A or B). For each short answer or essay indicate the question you think you are answering. Return the exam with the test.

Short Answer – 5 points each, choose 10.

1. Lambda
2. Multi-collinearity
3. Histogram
4. Contingency table
5. Partial correlation
6. Probability profile

Essays – Answer 2 of the following 3 questions, 50 points each.
Essay 1 – Analyze the following Analysis of Variance of presidential candidate ratings in detail. Units of analysis are individuals.

Descriptives

Feeling Thermometer for Barack Obama Pre 2008 Election

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1. Literal	770	53.72	31.051	1.119	51.52	55.91
2. Not literal	914	58.04	27.336	.904	56.26	59.81
3. Manmade	358	65.20	24.597	1.299	62.64	67.76
Total	2043	57.66	28.623	.633	56.42	58.91

Factor: Respondent Position on Biblical Literalism Scale

ANOVA

Feeling Thermometer for Barack Obama Pre 2008 Election

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	32485.808	2	16242.904	20.197	.000
Within Groups	1640607.982	2040	804.220		
Total	1673093.790	2042			

Essay 2 – Analyze the following regression analysis of School Proficiency outcomes in detail. Higher scores on the dependent variable indicate more students are proficient. Units of analysis are schools.