POS 3703: SCOPE AND METHODS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Spring 2014

Monday 6:00-8:50 pm, BC 255

Professor: Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey
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Office Hours: ***Cocoa***: Monday 3:00-5:00 PM;
Orlando: Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00 PM; Thursday 11:00 – Noon;
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 EFSC/UCF Joint-Use Library

(Mon-Thurs 8:00 AM-8:00 PM; Fri 9:00 AM-1:00 PM) For more information visit: http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us/academics/library/hours-special.cfm

Computer Lab Hours	**Suite 184, Building 3 (321) 433-7971**
Monday – Thursday	9:30 AM—6 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. Nine Assignments	50%
2. Two Exams	50%

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

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points

D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Students must fulfill the following tasks:

1. Complete reading assignments on time.
2. Complete **nine** assignments on time.
3. Take **two** open-book exams in class: an exam on ***Monday, March 17***, and a second exam on ***Monday, April 28***.

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 Monday, **April 28.**

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**.**

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

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

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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

Reading assignments in the schedule refer to *The Essentials of Political Analysis**

Week	**Topics Covered:**	**Assignments:**
January 6	Introduction to Course	
January 13	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
January 20	***Martin Luther King Day***	No Class

January 27	Research Design: Experiments	Pollock: Chapter 4 (also review pp. 84-97 ***Assignment 1 Due: 1/27***
February 3	Measurement Sampling ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 1, pp. 14-22 Chapter 2, pp. 28-32 Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 122-128 ***Assignment 2 Due: 2/3***
February 10	Description of Data ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 2, pp. 32-44; Chapter 6, pp. 128-133 ***Assignment 3 Due: 2/10***
February 17	Probability The Normal Distribution	Reading to be distributed in class Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 133-140 ***Assignment 4 Due: 2/17***
February 24	Inference ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 140-151 ***Assignment 5 Due: 2/24***
March 3	***Spring Break***	No Class
March 10	Locating Data **Review for First Exam**	***Assignment 6 Due: 3/10***
March 17	**First Exam**	**First Exam: Tuesday, March 17**
March 24	Hypothesis Testing Error Types ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 7, pp. 155-164
March 31	Contingency Tables	Pollock: Chapter 3, pp. 58-63 Chapter 5

	(SPSS lab)	Chapter 7, pp. 164-169 ***Assignment 6 Due: 3/31***
April 7	Correlation Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 182-187 Pollock: Chapter 8, 187-196 ***Assignment 7 Due: 4/7***
April 14	Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 196-201 ***Assignment 8 Due: 4/14***
April 21	***Show & Tell*** ***Review for Second Exam***	***Assignment 9 Due: 4/21***
April 28	***Second Exam***	**Second Exam: Monday, April 28**