UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
(AUGUST 10, 2014)

POS 3703.0005 - SCOPE & METHODS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (Credit: 3 Units)
Tu/Th 10:30AM - 11:45AM HPH 310

Instructor	Dr. Kyungkook Kang (pronounce Key-young-cook or K3)
Office	302J Phillips Hall
Office hours	Tuesday 1:30 –3:30 pm, or by appointment All office hours are first come, first served
Main office phone	407-823-5082
E-Mail	Kyungkook.Kang@ucf.edu
Correspondence	The best way of all correspondence with me will be via Canvas of Webcourses@UCF instead of regular email account, which can lead to delayed feedback. Please use Inbox, which is the global communication function in Canvas. I will normally respond within two business days.
Required Textbooks	Philip Pollock, The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition Philip Pollock, A Stata Companion to Political Analysis, 2nd Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION

WELCOME! In this course, we will explore the mechanics of analytical research design and methodology in contemporary political science. Particularly, we will focus on the issues of measurement, research design and empirical analysis. We will also evaluate what are the acceptable and valid means to accumulate our findings and knowledge in the scientifically testable forms. The students will gain experience and understanding of data analysis with STATA computing package.

COURSE GOALS

Specifically, you will be introduced to the process of developing testable and falsifiable theories and hypotheses, aided by statistical analysis software. I have four goals for the course:

a) That each student come to understand how to ask important and answerable questions in political science;
b) That each student be able to move from a question to a testable hypothesis;
c) That each student have a basic understanding of a variety of alternative strategies for testing that hypothesis and whether one is better suited to a question than another;
d) That each student be able to use these designs effectively.

COURSE DESIGN

The techniques of analytical research methods are imparted principally through taking classes and doing problem sets, rather than independent reading. Therefore, we believe that a student who has performed well in the classes will be well-prepared for the exam. The exams and assignments will consist of required questions which test the material of texts and lecture notes.

Our classes combines an examination of fundamental concepts and techniques of political science research with hands-on practical work applying those concepts and techniques. It is therefore essential for students to regularly attend the class and to read and carefully consider the required materials before the class. To complete the take-home assignments, you must use a lab computer OR rent the software and install it on your PC or laptop. We will be using STATA in this course. I assume that you have no prior experience with this software

Stata is available in the HPH 310 computer lab (our classroom). The information about the hours when the lab is available to students will be distributed in class and posted on Canvas. Students should either plan to regularly visit the computer lab, or rent and install Stata on their computer.

You can rent Stata for six months at:

http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-campus.html

The recommended version of Stata is Stata/IC 13 for the price conscious, the students-only six-month license. The student price is $69 (Aug 10, 2014). The link is located in the upper-right corner of the webpage listed above. Stata runs on Windows, Mac, and Linux/Unix. You need not specify your operating system when you order; Stata licenses are not platform specific. Delivery via electronic download is available.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. Regular attendance is crucial to being successful in this course. You should arrive to class on time: it will start promptly at its assigned time. Do not leave early. Late arrivals and early departures count as absences.

MAKE-UP EXAM & ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Make-up exams and assignments will be granted only in the case of an emergency (only for documented reasons) and/or a university documented absence. I always investigate the claims and make sure the documents are authentic. If such documentation is provided, it is up to the instructor's discretion to grant a make-up exam or to excuse the student from taking the exam without penalty. All make-ups are given on the last week of the semester. No extra credit expected. If exam or assignment dates conflict with a religious holiday, please notify the instructor about this at the beginning of the class. I will seek to accommodate you.

REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade will be based on three components:

- ✓ **Attendance**. **10 percent.** Attendance is required. This course will move fast; you will become confused if you do not attend regularly. Do not arrive late or leave early. Late arrivals count as absences. Early departures count as absences. The frequency and quality of individual attendance will be carefully recorded and reflected in the final grades.
- ✓ **Three Take-Home Lab Assignments**. **45 percent.** You will be given regular assignments during the term. Each student is to attempt all problems individually before the assigned date. The penalty for submitting a lab assignment late is 10 points (one letter grade approximately) for each calendar day of lateness. No extra credit.
- ✓ **Two In-Class Exams 45 percent.** You will be given two comprehensive take-home exam covering the material discussed in class. Typically, the exam will contain a number of theoretical questions and analytical exercises. No early exams. There is no extra credit in this course.

UCF DISABILITY STATEMENT

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. 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.

UCF RULES OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offenses. Please refer to the University's Rules of Conduct (available at: http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu) for more information on these issues. Failure to comply with university rules may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university authorities and/or appropriate civil authorities. The penalty for students who plagiarize or cheat on an exam or an assignment will include a grade of F on that exam or assignment.

PROFESSIONALISM POLICY

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time

for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade (NO POINTS IN ATTENDANCE, SERIOUSLY!).

GRADING

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

Your course grade will be determined by the following numeric scale:

Course Points Average	Letter Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C -
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0 – 59	F

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week and Date	Topic	Essentials	Stata
1st Week (Aug 19 & 21)	Course Introduction, Concepts and measurement I	Ch1	Getting Started
2nd Week (Aug 26& 28)	Concepts and measurement II	Ch1	Ch1, Ch2
3rd Week (Sep 2 & 4)	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Ch1, Ch2
4th Week (Sep 9 & 11)	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons I	Ch3	Ch3, Ch4
5th Week (Sep 16 & 18)	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons II	Ch3	Ch3, Ch4
6th Week (Sep 23 & 25)	Research design I	Ch4	
7th Week (Sep 30 & Oct 2)	Research design II	Ch4	

8th Week (Oct 7 & Oct 9)	**In-Class Midterm Exam & Review**	**Exam on Tuesday 10:30AM in class**	
9th Week (Oct 14 & Oct 16)	Controlled comparisons I	Ch5	Ch5
10th Week (Oct 21 & Oct 23)	Controlled comparisons II	Ch5	Ch5
11th Week (Oct 28 & Oct 30)	Inference and measures of association I	Ch6, Ch7	Ch6, Ch7
12th Week (Nov 4 & Nov 6)	Inference and measures of association II	Ch6, Ch7	Ch6, Ch7
13th Week (Nov 13)	Inference and measures of association III	Ch6, Ch7	Ch6, Ch7
14th Week (Nov 18 & Nov 20)	Regression analysis I	Ch8	Ch8
15th Week (Nov 25)	Regression analysis II	Ch8	Ch8
16th Week (Dec 9)	**In-Class Final Exam**	**Exam on Tuesday 10:30AM in class**	

***** Note: The content of syllabus and course schedule are subject to change and update at the instructor's discretion if necessary.**

Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Canvas.

Students are responsible for any changes in syllabus/schedule which are announced in class.