Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703)
Pollock / Fall 2014

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Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
Required books	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition* Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 4th Edition*
Recommended	Rent IBM® SPSS® Statistics Base GradPack 22 (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.** 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:
http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/ProductSearchOfferingList.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&srch=statistics+base&utm_source=LandingPage-SPSS-Statistics-Base-19&utm_medium=LandingPage&utm_campaign=SPSS&JSEnabled=1

Requirements. Your course grade will be based on three components: Attendance (10 percent), Assignments (20 percent), and Exams (70 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. **15 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 your assignments**. Late assignments receive zero points. No make-up assignments. No extra credit.

Exams. 70 percent. There will be four exams during the term—two in-class exams (25 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	October 8
Take-home exam I	October 10
In-class exam II	December 1
Take-home exam II	December 3 (10 a. m.)

Note: No class will be held on the following dates:
Friday, August 29; Monday, September 1; Friday, November 28.

In-class exams are held during regularly scheduled class times. Take-home exams are available immediately following in-class exams and are downloaded from the course site. Take-home exam I is due October 10 at the beginning of class. Take-home exam II is due *no later than* December 3 at 10 a.m. in our regular classroom.

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

>=90	87-89	80-86	77-79	70-76	67-69	60-66	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 27. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

→ **You are required to**: Complete the Academic Activity Quiz on the course site.

Schedule for the term.

Week of	**Topic**	***Essentials***	***Companion***
Aug18 Aug25	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
[Sep1] Sep8	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Sep15 Sep22	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Sep29 Oct6	Making comparisons		Ch4
Oct8 **Oct10**	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Oct13 Oct20	Research design	Ch4	
Oct27	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Nov3 Nov10	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Nov17	Foundations of inference	Ch6	
Nov24	Correlation and linear regression	Ch8	Ch6, Ch7
Dec1 **Dec3**	**In-class exam II** **Take-home exam II due, 10 a.m.**		

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