University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703, Section 4 – Spring 2015
Tuesday and Thursday 9 – 10:15am (3 credit hours)
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am – 1pm; Appointments for times not listed are always welcomed.
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Course Description
This course will examine techniques and concepts essential for conducting and understanding research in political science. It addresses fundamental components of analysis in political science and statistical techniques that are used. Students will be assigned readings from the required text book which will need to be completed in order to be prepared for class. In addition to discussion of the concepts that are introduced in the reading assignments in-class exercises using SPSS will be given. Attending class therefore, is crucial to success in the course.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully complete the course will have obtained:

- Knowledge of the discipline of political science
- Knowledge of the application of the scientific method in the context of social science research
- Knowledge of the main components of quantitative research methods used by political scientist
- Ability to understand political analysis
- Understanding of the use of statistical packages such as SPSS and the ability to construct models of analysis and interpret results of analysis

Course Requirements
All students are expected to arrive on time. Cell phones or other communications devices must be turned off or silenced while in class. Students are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to class discussions. Work assignments must be completed before class.

Required text book
Title: The Essentials of Political Analysis - Edition: 4
Author: Philip H Pollock III
Publisher: Congressional Quarterly, Inc.

Recommended text book
Title: The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition and An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 4th Edition Package - Edition: 4
Author: Philip H Pollock III
Publisher: Congressional Quarterly, Inc.

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Take-home assignment 1	10%
Take-home assignment 2	10%
Final Examination	20%
4 Quizzes (5% each)	20%

Examinations and Grading

Three in-class exams will be given including two during the semester and one final exam. Questions will be based on information covered in the textbook as well as material presented during class lectures, presentations, and discussions. Four in-class quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on the day scheduled. In addition you will be given two take-home assignments. The dates for all exams, quizzes, and take-home assignments are listed in the course schedule below.

In the interest of fairness to all students, extra credit work will not be given. If a student misses an exam, he or she must provide sufficient justification for doing so (e.g. a documented emergency) to qualify for a make-up-exam. If documentation is not provided a make-up exam will not be given. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by telephone, voice mail or e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to discuss the possibility of being given a make-up exam. Students must arrive on time to take exams. No student will be allowed to begin an exam once other students have finished and left the exam room.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. For clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ . Students are Violations of the rules addressing academic integrity stated in The Golden Rule will result in documentation of the infraction and a grade of zero for the work in question. Confirmation of academic dishonesty an also result in expulsion from the University of Central Florida.

Attendance and Withdrawal

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if they decide not to complete it. Students who discontinue attending class, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

Special Needs
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 who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from me for the course. Once Student Disability Services has been contacted, I am happy to make any arrangements needed by my students.

Course Plan
The following is a schedule of readings, exams, and assignments for the course. Adjustments may be made if necessary such as in cases of inclement weather which would make travel to campus unsafe. Please note that if classes are suspended because of unsafe weather conditions, students should still adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

	Course Schedule (subject to revision)	
Date	Topics	Reading assignment
13-Jan	Introduction to course and Definition of Concepts	
15	Ch. 1 *Definition and Measurement of Concepts;* Conceptual Definitions	pp. 6-12
20	Operational Definitions;	pp. 12 - 22
22	Ch. 2 *Measuring and Describing Variables;* Measuring variables;	pp. 28 -32
27	Describing variables; **First take-home assignment given. Quiz 1**	pp. 32 - 44
29	Ch. 3 *Proposing Explanation, Faming Hypothesis, and Making Comparisons;* Explanations &Hypothesis **First take-home assignment is due.**	pp. 48 - 58
3-Feb	Making comparisons:	pp. 58 - 63
5	Graphing relationships	pp. 63 - 71
10	Exam 1	
12	Ch. 4 *Research Design and the Logic of Control;* Experimental Designs	pp. 78 - 86
17	Three Scenarios (types of relationships)	pp. 86 - 97
19	Ch. 5 *Making Controlled Comparison;* Cross-tabulation Analysis - **Quiz 2**	pp. 102 - 108
24	Graphing Controlled Comparisons	pp. 108 - 109
26	Interactions Mean comparisons Analysis; **Second take-home assignment given.**	pp. 109 -118
3-Mar	Ch. 6 *Foundations of Statistical Inference*; Population parameters & Sample statistics; Random sampling; **Second take-home assignment is due.**	pp. 122 - 135
5	Standard Error of a Sample Mean; Normal distribution;	pp. 135 - 144
17	Student's t distribution; Sample proportions	pp. 144 - 151
19	Exam 2	
24	Chl. 7 T*ests of Significant and Measures of Association;* Statistical Significance - 2 sample means	pp. 155 - 162
26	Statistical Significance - 2 sample proportions	pp.162 - 169
31	Chi Square	pp. 169 - 177
2-Apr	Ch. 8 *Correlation and Linear Regression;* Correlation - **Quiz 3**	pp. 182 - 187
7-Jan	Bivariate Regression	pp. 193 - 199
9	R square; Dummy Variable regression	pp. 199 - 201
14	Multiple Regression	pp. 201 - 204
16	Multiple Regression cont. - **Quiz 4**	pp. 205 - 206
21	Multiple Regression cont.	
23	Review for final	
Thursday, April 3	Final exam: 7am - 9:50am	