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Course Syllabus

This **webcourses@ucf (mailto:webcourses@ucf)** site supports the traditional POS 3703 Scope and Methods of Political Science course taught by Dr. Barry Edwards. Students can use this site to keep track of assignment due dates, access online study material, submit assignments, read course-related announcements, and keep track of their grades.

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (**About Me (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1132309/pages/about-me)**)
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall 305B (**Where's This? (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/)**)
- Office Hours: TBA and by appointment
- Phone: 407-823-2608
- E-mail: barry.edwards@ucf.edu

Course Information

- Name: Scope & Methods of Political Science
- Course ID & Section: POS 3703-0004
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Fall 2015
- Class Times: T Th, 10:30-11:45 am
- Class Location: HPH 310 (**Where's This? (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/)**)

Course Description

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 how to use R, a free, state-of-the-art data analysis software (available at **cran.r-project.org (http://cran.r-project.org)**). University Course Catalog Description: the scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology.

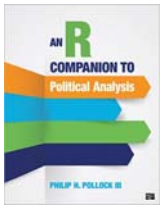
Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should have a firm understanding of how political scientists conduct research. You should also understand and be able to apply key methods of political science research. You should leave the class with a library of functional R scripts that you can use to analyze data in the future.

Required Textbooks and Supplemental Readings

- **REQUIRED**: Pollock, Phillip H. 2011. *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 4th Edition.* Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press (hereafter "*Essentials*"). **See Amazon page (http://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Political-Analysis-Philip-Pollock/dp/1608716864/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1438714973&sr=1-1)** .

- **REQUIRED**: Pollock, Phillip H. 2014. *A R Companion to Political Analysis.* Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press (hereafter "*Companion*"). **See Amazon page (http://www.amazon.com/R-Companion-Political-Analysis-ebook/dp/B00LXFGCSU/ref=sr_1_6?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1438715016&sr=1-6)** . Make sure you get the *R Companion* (rather than the Stata or SPSS Companion).



- **RECOMMENDED:** There are a number of web sites that offer useful information about statistics and computing. Students may wish to use these web sites as necessary to supplemental class material. For example, we may only briefly review some mathematical

concepts. If a concept is not familiar to you or you want to study it in more detail, I would encourage you to take advantage of supplemental resources.

- **SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed in class.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on following components:

1. **Lab Participation and Attendance (10%) –** Attendance at class lab sessions is required so that you are available to help others and participate in their learning. Text messaging or surfing the web during class is not appropriate. *Do not use your smart phone in class except in cases of emergency.*
2. **Lab Assignments (50%)** – There will be twelve assignments over the course of the semester. These are problem sets that require you to apply the course material and write R code. The assignments will be available online as we begin new course modules and we'll use our lab sessions to work on assignments. You'll upload your completed assignments (including R code script) to our webcourses@ucf site. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped.
3. **Online Quizzes and Review Exercises (10%)** - To reinforce your understanding of lecture topics, you will complete a number of online quizzes and review exercises. Your lowest module review exercise score will be dropped. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped.
4. **Small Group Discussions (10%)** - Each student will be assigned to a small group of 5-6 students. In your small groups, you'll discuss some issues in political science research and will also help one another with your original research projects.
5. **Final Exam (15%)** – The final examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a constructive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
6. **Original Research Paper (5%)** - By the end of the semester, you will submit a 4-5 page research that uses multiple regression analysis to test an original research hypothesis. The assignment pages contain more information about this assignment.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. There is no extra credit available.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. Your score on late work will be reduced 10% per day late. For example, if receive a score of 9 our of 10 on an assignment two days after it was due, your score will be reduced 20%, so you will receive a 7.2 out of 10 on that assignment . You will receive no credit for work completed ten or more days after its due date.

Grading Scale

>=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

Email, Announcements, and WebCourses Messages

I may occasionally email, webcourses announcements, and/or webcourses messages to communicate with students about this class. I check my email regularly during weekdays and occasionally during the weekend. Students may expect an email reply by the next business day and encouraged to follow-up with me if I do not reply by the next business day.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Group Work Policy

You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for your own work.

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.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Laptop Usage

I recommend that you take hand written notes on my lecture outlines. **Educational research (http://www.vox.com/2014/6/4/5776804/note-taking-by-hand-versus-laptop)** strongly suggests that taking notes by hand is more effective than taking notes on a laptop.

Classroom Devices

You are welcome to use calculators, tape recorders, other audio & technology devices in this course. However, see policies regarding attendance, laptops, and professionalism.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website (http://www.uwc.ucf.edu)**, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have access to writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.ucf.edu/schedule.php)** with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you! This service is free to you.

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 (http://www.sds.ucf.edu/)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith (not already reflected in the normal class schedule). For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party

software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Financial Aid Requirement

As of Fall, 2014, all faculty 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 Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Date	Details	
Tue Aug 25, 2015	Class Orientation Session (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107698&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Aug 26, 2015	Read Essentials, pp. 1-5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107626&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Thu Aug 27, 2015	Lecture: Studying Politics Scientifically (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107672&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Fri Aug 28, 2015	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3960736)	due by 5pm
	Quiz: About You and Your Interests (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903942)	due by 11:59pm
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904307)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 30, 2015	Scientific Revolution Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3968011)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 31, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107659&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Sep 1, 2015	Lab Session: Introduction to R (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107675&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Sep 2, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107628&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #1 (The R Environment) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903944)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 3, 2015	Lecture: Definition and Measurement of Concepts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107674&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Sep 6, 2015	Discussion: The Effect of Negative Campaign Ads (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904240)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 7, 2015	Reading Assignment TBA (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107699&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Sep 8, 2015	Lab Session: Working with the Companion Datasets (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107676&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Sep 9, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107629&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #2 (Working with Companion Datasets) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3905312)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 10, 2015	Lecture: Measuring and Describing Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107687&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am

Date	Details	
Sun Sep 13, 2015	Measurement and Descriptive Statistics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931260)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 14, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107660&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Sep 15, 2015	Lab Session: Working with Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107677&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Sep 16, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107630&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #3 (Working with Variables) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903945)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 17, 2015	Lecture: Explanations, Hypotheses, and Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107688&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Sep 20, 2015	Discussion: Research on College Student Opinions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904242)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 21, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107661&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Sep 22, 2015	Lab Session: Creating Figures (for Your Poster Presentations) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107678&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Thu Sep 24, 2015	Present Lab Assignment #4 in Class on Thurs, Sept. 24th (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903947)	due by 10:30am
Sun Sep 27, 2015	Mini Course Review Online Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931257)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 28, 2015	Reading Assignment TBA (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107663&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Sep 29, 2015	Lecture: Research Ethics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107689&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Sep 30, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107633&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Thu Oct 1, 2015	Lecture: Research Design (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107690&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Oct 4, 2015	Discussion: Transparency and Research Ethics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904243)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 5, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107664&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Oct 6, 2015	Lab Session: Making Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107679&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Oct 7, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107651&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #5 (Making Comparisons) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903946)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 8, 2015	Lecture: Making Controlled Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107691&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Oct 11, 2015	Research Design & Controlled Comparisons Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931261)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 12, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107665&	12am

Date	Details	
	include_contexts=course_1108015)	
Tue Oct 13, 2015	Lab Session: Making Controlled Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107680&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Oct 14, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 6, pp. 122-135 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107652&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #6 (Making Controlled Comparisons) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904239)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 15, 2015	Lecture: Foundations of Inference I (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107692&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Oct 18, 2015	Foundations of Inference: True or False? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931262)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 19, 2015	Reading Assignment TBA (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107704&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Oct 20, 2015	Lab Session: Samples and Sampling Distributions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107681&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Oct 21, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 6, pp. 135-154 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107653&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #7 (Expected Sampling Distributions) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903949)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 22, 2015	Lecture: Foundations of Inference II (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107693&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Oct 25, 2015	Discussion: Null Hypothesis Testing (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904245)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 26, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107666&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Oct 27, 2015	Lab Session: Making Inferences about Sample Means & Sample Proportions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107682&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Oct 28, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107654&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #8 (Inferences about Means) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903950)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 29, 2015	Lecture: Tests of Significance and Measures of Association (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107694&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Nov 1, 2015	Online Quiz: Calculating Standard Errors (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931263)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 2, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107667&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Nov 3, 2015	Lab Session: Tests of Significance, Chi-Square & Measures of Association (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107683&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Nov 4, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 8, pp. 182-199 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107655&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #9 (Inferences About Proportions, Chi-Squared Test, and Measures of Association) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903951)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 5, 2015	Lecture: Correlation and Bivariate Regression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107695&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am

Date	Details	
Sun Nov 8, 2015	Label Parts of Bivariate Regression Model (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931264)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 9, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107668&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Nov 10, 2015	Lab Session:Correlation and Bivariate Regression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107684&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Nov 11, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 8, pp. 199-206 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107656&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Reading Assignment TBA (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107705&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #10 (Correlation and Bivariate Regression) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903952)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 12, 2015	Lecture: Multiple Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107696&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Nov 15, 2015	Multiple Regression Analysis Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3931266)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 16, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107669&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Nov 17, 2015	Lab Session: Multiple Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107685&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Wed Nov 18, 2015	Read Essentials, Chapter 10 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107657&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Submit Lab Assignment #11 (Multiple Regression Analysis) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903953)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 19, 2015	Lecture: Building, Estimating, and Interpreting Regression Models (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107697&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Nov 22, 2015	Discussion: Ideas for Final Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3904246)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 23, 2015	Read Companion, Chapter 11 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107670&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Tue Nov 24, 2015	Lab Session: Testing a Hypothesis Using Linear Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107686&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
	Extra Credit Lab Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903983)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 26, 2015	Thanksgiving (No UCF Classes) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107623&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Nov 29, 2015	Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3970212)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 1, 2015	Present Lab Assignment #12 in Class on Tues., Dec. 1st (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903954)	due by 10:30am
	Last Lab Participation Day (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3903957)	due by 12pm
Thu Dec 3, 2015	Final Exam Review Session (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1107658&include_contexts=course_1108015)	12am
Sun Dec 6, 2015	Upload Original Research Paper (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1108015/assignments/3962822)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 15, 2015	Final Exam in Class on Tues., Dec. 15 from 10 am - 12:50 pm (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses	due by

Date	Details	
	/1108015/assignments/3903956)	10am