Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0001/.0002)
Pollock / Fall 2015

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	MW: 8:30-10:15, 2:30-3:30 and by appointment
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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*

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 and is available at https://apps.ucf.edu

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 run SPSS from https://apps.ucf.edu. Alternatively, you may wish to rent SPSS: 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
This course has two sections, 0001 and 0002. **You must attend class during the assigned time of the section for which you are registered.**

Your course grade will be based on three components: Attendance (15 percent), Assignments (15 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 14
Take-home exam I	October 16
In-class exam II	December 7
Take-home exam II	December 9 (10 a.m.)

Note: No class will be held on the following dates:
Friday, September 4; Monday, September 7; Wednesday, November 11; Friday, November 27.

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 16 at the beginning of class. Take-home exam II is due *no later than* December 9 at 10 a.m. in our regular classroom.

GRADING SCALE

Letter	*Numeric*
A	90 or higher
B+	87-9
B	80-86
C+	77-79
C	70-76
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 or lower

FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENT

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 28. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.** For details: http://online.ucf.edu/teach-online/resources/financial-aid/

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISHONESTY

You must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and conduct, as specified in UCF's Rules of Conduct (UCF-5.008). **Any student who violates these standards will receive an F in the course.** Section UCF-5.008 describes acts that constitute Academic Misconduct:

"1. Academic Misconduct (a) **Unauthorized assistance**: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course related material also constitutes cheating. (b) **Communication to another** through written, visual, electronic, or oral means. The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment or project. (c) **Commercial Use** of Academic Material: Selling notes, handouts, etc. without authorization or using them for any commercial purpose without the express written permission of the University and the Instructor is a violation of this rule. (d) **Falsifying** or misrepresenting your academic work. (e) **Plagiarism**: Whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. (f) **Multiple Submissions**: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor. (g) **Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards**."

SCHEDULE FOR THE TERM

Week of	**Topic**	***Essentials***	***Companion***
Aug24 Aug31	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
[Sep7] Sep14	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Sep21 Sep28	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Oct5 Oct12	Making comparisons		Ch4
Oct14 **Oct16**	**In-class exam I** **Take-home exam I due**		
Oct19 Oct26	Research design	Ch4	
Nov2	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Nov9 Nov16	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Nov23	Foundations of inference	Ch6	
Nov30	Correlation and linear regression	Ch8	Ch6, Ch7
Dec7 **Dec9**	**In-class exam II** **Take-home exam II due, 10 a.m.**		

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