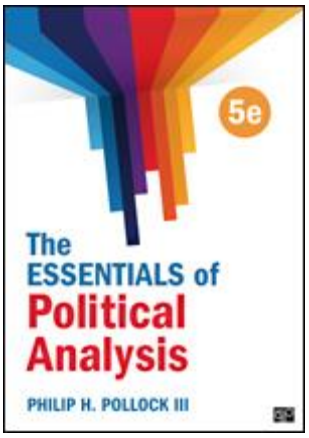
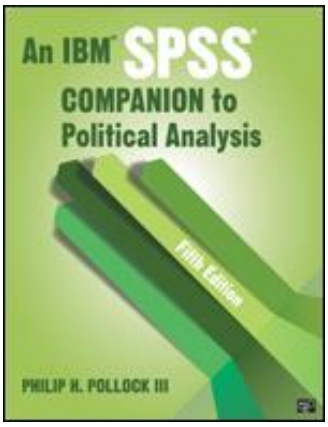
Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0003)
Pollock / Spring 2016

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	TTh 10:30-1:00 p.m. and by appointment
Voice	407-823-2608
Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
Books	Pollock: *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 5e + Pollock: *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, 5e: 978-1-5063-2892-8 **Note: You must obtain the Fifth edition of these books.**





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 will learn SPSS, powerful data analysis software. SPSS is available in many labs on campus, as well as on apps.ucf: http://apps.ucf.edu/

Class sessions include lectures and SPSS skill-set development. **During lectures, lab computer monitors, laptops, and all other devices must be turned off. During SPSS skill-set development, lab computer monitors must be turned on.**

In order to do well in this course, you must have a thorough grasp of the reading, the lecture material, and the computer software. This is very important. Come to class every day. Take good notes. Ask questions. If you do not understand an idea or topic, visit me during office hours or send me an email.

REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade has 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 complete 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 two exams during the term. Each exam will have an in-class component (25 percent each) and a take-home component (10 percent each). No early exams. No make-up exams. The exams will follow this schedule:

Exam	In-class taken on:	Take-home due on:
1	March 1	March 3
2	April 26	April 28 @ 9:50 a.m.

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

0-59	60-66	67-69	70-76	77-79	80-86	87-89	90-100
F	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A

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, you must complete the academic activity "quiz" by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday, January 15, 2016. 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.

Class of:	*Topic*	*Essentials*	*Companion*
Jan12 Jan14 Jan19 Jan21	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
Jan26 Jan28 Feb2	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Feb4 Feb9 *[Feb11*	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons *Instructor at conference]*	Ch3	Ch3
Feb16 Feb18 Feb23 Feb25	Making comparisons		Ch4
Mar1 **Mar3** *[Break]*	**In-class exam 1** **Take-home exam 1 due**		
Mar15 Mar17	Research design	Ch4	
Mar22 Mar24	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Mar29 Mar31	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Apr5 Apr7	Inference and measures of association	Ch6, Ch7	Ch7
Apr12 Apr14 Apr19 Apr21	Regression analysis	Ch8	Ch8
April 26 **April 28**	**In-class exam 2** **Take-home exam 2 due, 9:50 a.m.**		