Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0002/.0003)
Pollock / Fall 2017

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	MW: 8:30-10:15; W: 1-4 and by appointment
Voice	407-823-2608
Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
Required books	Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th Edition* Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th Edition*
Ancillaries	Powerpoint slides for *Essentials* chapters Videos for *Essentials* chapters and *SPSS* chapters

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 available in campus labs and available at https://apps.ucf.edu.

REQUIREMENTS

This course has two sections, 0002 and 0003. **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 (10 percent), Assignments (20 percent), and Exams (70 percent).

Attendance. 10 percent. Attendance is required. Do not arrive late or leave early. Late arrivals count as absences. Early departures count as absences. You are responsible for signing the sign-in sheet each day.

Assignments. **20 percent**. You will be given regular assignments during the term. Assignments will be available online and submitted online. **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). Take-home exams will be turned in online. No early exams. No make-up exams. The exams will follow this schedule:

Exam:	*Taken or Due on:*
In-class exam I	October 11
Take-home exam I	October 13
In-class exam II	December 1
Take-home exam II	December 6 (10 a.m.)

Note: No class will be held on the following dates: Monday, September 5; Friday, November 11; Friday, November 25.

In-class exams are held during regularly scheduled class times. Take-home I will open immediately following In-class exam I on October 11 and will be due *no later than* 30 minutes before the beginning of class on October 13. Take-home exam II will open immediately following In-class exam II on December 1 and is due *no later than* December 6 at 10 a.m.

GRADING SCALE

Letter	*Range*
A	90 or higher
B+	87-89
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 posted 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 25. **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**."

***Note*: No class will be held on the following dates:**
Friday, September 1 (instructor at conference)
Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)
Friday, November 10 (Veterans Day)
Friday, November 24 (Thanksgiving)

SCHEDULE FOR THE TERM

Week of	***Topic***	***Reading***	***Videos*****
Aug21 Aug28	Concepts and measurement	*ESSENTIALS*: Introduction, Ch1	Essentials_5E_Introduction *[1 video]* Essentials_5E_Chapter1_part1-part2 *[2 videos]*
[Sep4] Sep11	Measuring and describing variables	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch2 *SPSS*: Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2	Essentials_5E_Chapter2_part1-part2 *[2 videos]* *SPSS* videos: Introduction, Ch1, Ch2 *[6 videos]*
Sep18 Sep25	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch3 *SPSS*: Ch3	Essentials_5E_Chapter3_part1-part5 *[5 videos]* *SPSS* videos: Chapter3, Transformations *[4 videos]*
Oct2 Oct9	Making comparisons	*SPSS*: Ch4	*SPSS* videos: Chapter 4 *[4 videos]*
Oct11 Oct13	**In-class exam I Take-home exam I due**		
Oct16 Oct23	Research design	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch4	Essentials_5E_Chapter4_part1-part2 *[2 videos]*
Oct30	Understanding controlled comparisons	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch5	Essentials_5E_Chapter5_part1, part3 *[2 videos]* (part1 also contains part2)
Nov6 Nov13	Making controlled comparisons	*SPSS*: Ch5	*SPSS* videos: Chapter 5 *[5 videos]*
Nov20	Foundations of inference	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch6	Essentials_5E_Chapter6_part1-part4 *[4 videos]*
Nov27	Correlation and linear regression	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch8 *SPSS*: Ch8	Essentials_5E_Chapter8 *[7 videos]* *SPSS* videos: Chapter 8 *[4 videos]*
Dec1 Dec6	**In-class exam II Take-home exam II due, 10 a.m.**		

***ESSENTIALS* videos are linked on Webcourses. *SPSS* folders are linked on Webcourses.
Note: No class will be held on the following dates: Friday, September 1 (instructor at conference); Monday, September 4; Friday, November 10; Friday, November 24.