POS 3703 Scope & Methods

Political Science Department

University of Central Florida

Instructor: Christine Regnier-Bachand

Term:	Fall 2017
Class Meeting Days:	Tuesday and Thursday
Class Meeting Hours:	Time 3pm-4:15pm
Class Location:	HPH 310
Lab Location:	HPH 310

Office Number: HPH 313

Email: Regnier-bachand@knights.ucf.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2pm- 3pm

Course Description

In this course you will learn the processes 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 SPSS. This is a statistical data analysis program. 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.

Required Textbooks:

REQUIRED: Pollock, Phillip H. 2016. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th Edition. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press (hereafter "Essentials"). ISBN-13: 978-1506305837, ISBN-10: 1506305830. See Amazon page (Links to an external site.).

REQUIRED: Pollock, Philip H. 2016. An IBM SPSS Companion to Political Analysis.5th Edition.

Course Credits: This is a 3 credit hour course and is required for Political Science Majors

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance 10% of final grade. Regular attendance is crucial to learning and understanding course content. Absences will only be excused in the event of documented illness (Dr's note must be provided), or for a University sanctioned event (documentation must also be provided from a coach or sponsoring Professor).
2. Midterm exam 20% of final grade. Exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions, as well as interpretation of tables and graphs. (No makeup exams will be given without documented proof of an excused absence).
3. Lab Assignments- 20% of final grade. Lab assignments will be taken from the SPSS Companion and will be conducted using the SPSS statistical analysis program.
4. Online Quizzes 20% of final grade. These quizzes will open on Wednesdays and will close on the following Sunday night at 11:59pm.
5. Final Exam- 30% of final grade. This will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and graphic interpretation. (No makeup exams will be given without documented proof of an excused absence)

Extra Credit Policy

There is one opportunity for 5 extra credit points on a single assignment of your choosing. Please see the schedule for details.

Makeup Exams

No makeup exams will be given without documented proof of an excused absence. Excused absences are an illness with a Doctor's note for the days missed, documented required school function, or the death of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, child, spouse).

Late Work Policy

Lab assignments and the research design will be accepted up to 5 days late at a penalty of 5% per day late, with a maximum deduction of 25%. After 5 days late work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

Grading Scale- I do not give minus grades

A 100-90%

B+ 89-85%

B 84-80%

C+ 79-75%

C 74-70%

D+ 69-65%

D 64-60%

F below 60%

Email, Announcements, and WebCourses Messages

I will use 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. You are **REQUIRED** to check webcourses, and your email daily for communication about this course.

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.

Workload Expectations

This is a three credit hour class. The workload expectation per credit hour is set forth in the UCF Catalog, Registration Policies, Terms and Credit Hours, which states the amount of

work represented by one credit hour is not less than "One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week [or equivalent work in internship, directed readings, etc.] for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time."

Group Work Policy

All work done must be completed on your own. However, during lab classes students will be able to help one another. All work turned in must be your own.

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 up to 10% of the final 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 for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule 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..

Classroom Devices and Personal Devices

Lab desktop computers are to be used only for SPSS use during class. Please do not use your personal laptop during class time. Cell phone use is prohibited during class. Students found to be using cell phones or using computers to access any website or computer program not specifically related to classwork will receive a 0 for that days attendance.

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, 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 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.

Accessibility 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 Accessibility Services, 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, on the first day of class, 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.

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.

Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule or syllabus as needed. Any changes will be communicated through webcourses or knights email. Please be advised if class is cancelled for any reason an announcement will be made on webcourses. You must check your email and webcourse announcements daily.

SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Tuesday August 22, 2017	Syllabus Overview and Course Introduction
Thursday August 24th, 2017 Drop Deadline 11:59 p.m.	• Syllabus Quiz Due 11:59 p.m.(Financial aid activity) • Read for Today Essentials Chapter 1 and Introduction
Tuesday August 29th, 2017	• Lecture- Defining Concepts, Measurement of concepts. • Quiz 1 opens Wednesday August 30, 2017 and closes Sunday September 3rd, 2017 at 11:59 pm.
Thursday August 31st, 2017 **No class. University closes at 3pm for a Football game.**	• Lab Assignment 1 Exercises 1&2 from the SPSS Companion Chapter 1. Due by 11:59pm on Webcourses.

Tuesday September 5th, 2017	• Lecture – Descriptive Statistics and measuring variables. Chapter 2 in the Pollock essentials book. Please read prior to class. • Quiz 2 will open Wednesday September 6th and close at 11:59 pm on Sunday Sept. 10th
Thursday Sept 7th, 2017	• Lab – Assignment 2 Chapter 2 in the SPSS companion. Complete exercises 1-8 all parts. This assignment is due Monday September 11th 2017 by 11:59 pm on webcourses.
Tuesday Sept 12th, 2017	• Lecture – Chapter 3 in the Pollock Essentials book. Please read this chapter prior to class. • Quiz 3 will open Wednesday September 13th and close Sunday 17th at 11:59 pm.
Thursday Sept 14th	• Lab Assignment 3- Chapter 3 from the SPSS Companion. Transforming variables. Complete exercises 1,2, & 3. Turn in the assignment on webcourses by Monday September 18th at 11:59pm.
Tuesday Sept 19th	• Lecture- Research Design Chapter 4 from the Pollock essentials book. Please read this chapter prior to class. • Quiz 4 will open on Wednesday Sept 20th and close Sunday September 24th at 11:59 pm.
Thursday September 21th	• Lab- Chapter 4 in the SPSS companion. Making comparisons Complete exercises 1-5. Turn in by Monday September 25th at 11:59 pm.
Tuesday Sept 26th	• Lecture- Read Chapter 5 in the Essentials of Political Analysis making controlled comparisons • Quiz 5 opens Wednesday September 27th and closes Sunday October 1st at 11:59pm.
Thursday Sept 28th	• Lab- Chapter 5 in the SPSS companion, making controlled comparisons. Complete exercises 1-5

	in the SPSS companion and submit via webcourses by Monday October 2nd at 11:59pm.
Tuesday Oct 3rd	• Lecture- Chapter 6 in the Essentials book. Statistical Inference. Quiz 6 due by Sunday October 8th at 11:59 pm.
Thursday Oct 5th	• Lab Assignment 6 Making inferences about sample means. Exercises 1-4 in SPSS companion are due by Monday October 9th at 11:59 pm in webcourses.
Tuesday Oct 10th	• Midterm review
Thursday Oct 12	• Midterm Exam- Online Please log on to webcourses for your exam. It will open at 9am and will close at 11:59pm. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.
Tuesday Oct 17th	• Lecture- Tests of significance and measures of association. Chapter 7 Essentials Book • Quiz 7 due Sunday October 22nd at 11:59 pm
Thursday Oct 19th	• Lab- Chi Square and Measures of Association Chapter 7 SPSS Companion. Lab assignment 7 exercises 1-5 SPSS companion due Monday October 23rd at 11:59pm on webcourses.
Tuesday Oct 24th	• Lecture- Correlation and Linear regression Chapter 8 of the Pollock essentials book. • Quiz 8 due Sunday October 29th at 11:59pm.
Thursday Oct 26th	• Lab- Correlation and Linear Regression Chapter 8 from the SPSS companion. Lab assignment 8 due by Monday October 30th at 11:59 pm on webcourses. Submit exercises 1-6 from Chapter 8 of the companion.
Tuesday Oct 31st	• Read chapter 9 in the essentials book on Logistic regression. Quiz 9 due Sunday November 5th by 11:59 pm.

Thursday Nov 2	• Lab- Chapter 9 in the SPSS companion. Complete lab assignment 9 and submit in webcourses by 11:59pm on Monday November 6th. Exercises 1-3.
Tuesday Nov 7	• Lecture on Logistic regression. Quiz 10 due by Sunday November 12th at 11:59 pm.
Thursday Nov 9th	• Lab Chapter 10 in SPSS companion. Logistic regression. Answer exercises 1-3 in Chapter 10 of the SPSS companion book, due Monday November 13th, 2017 in webcourses by 11:59 pm.
Tuesday Nov 14th	• Lecture- Selected political science articles will be assigned and must be read prior to class. Article links will be posted on webcourses 10 days prior to class.
Thursday Nov 16th	• Lecture- Selected political science articles will be assigned and must be read prior to class. Article links will be posted on webcourses 10 days prior to class.
Tuesday Nov 21st	• In class quiz on comprehension of Political Science Articles
Thursday Nov 23rd	Thanksgiving NO CLASS
Tuesday Nov 28th	. Final exam Review session in class!!!! Students who attend this review session will receive 5 extra credit points on any single assignment from the semester. Attendance will be taken 5 minutes prior to the end of class. (ANY ASSIGNMENT INCLUDING MIDTERM)
Thursday Nov 30th	Final exam Review session in class!!!! Students who attend this review session will receive 5 extra credit points on any single assignment from the semester. Attendance

	will be taken 5 minutes prior to the end of class.
FINAL EXAM Thursday Dec 7th, 2017	1pm-3:50 pm HPH 310 (DO NOT MISS IT)