University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 | Section 4 | Fall - 2018
Tuesday and Thursday; 3 – 4:15 pm, (3 credit hours)
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday; 11 - 1 pm and by appointment
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Purpose and Course Description

This course will examine techniques and concepts essential for conducting and understanding research in political science. It addresses fundamental components of analysis in political science and statistical techniques that are used. Students will be assigned readings from the required text book which will need to be completed in order to be prepared for class. In addition to discussion of the concepts that are introduced in the reading assignments in-class exercises using SPSS and Microsoft Excel will be given. Attending class therefore, is crucial to success in the course.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will have obtained:

- Knowledge of the discipline of political science
- Knowledge of the application of the scientific method in the context of social science research
- Knowledge of the main components of quantitative research methods used by political scientist
- Ability to understand political analysis
- Understanding of the use of statistical packages such as SPSS and the ability to construct models of analysis and interpret results of analysis

Expectations for Student Performance

1. Course Requirements

All students are expected to arrive on time. Cell phones or other communications devices must be turned off or silenced while in class. Students are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to class discussions however, off-topic, side conversations are not allowed. Work assignments must be completed before class.

2. Required text books: The two books are available as a package

Title: The Essentials of Political Analysis - Edition: 5

Author: Philip H Pollock III

Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

Title: An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th Edition Package - Edition: 5

Author: Philip H Pollock III

Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

3. Examinations and Grading

Three in-class exams will be given: two during the semester and one final exam. Questions will be based on information covered in the textbooks as well as material presented during class lectures, presentations, and discussions. Four in-class quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on the days scheduled. In addition, you will be given two take-home assignments. The dates for all exams, quizzes, and take-home assignments are listed in the course schedule below.

In the interest of fairness to all students, extra credit work will not be given. If a student misses an exam, he or she must provide sufficient justification for doing so (e.g. a documented emergency) to qualify for a make-up-exam. If documentation is not provided a make-up exam will not be given. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by telephone, voice mail or e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to discuss the possibility of being given a make-up exam**. Students must arrive on time to take exams. No student will be allowed to begin an exam once other students have finished and left the exam room.**

4. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. For clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ . Students are Violations of the rules addressing academic integrity stated in The Golden Rule will result in documentation of the infraction and a grade of zero for the work in question. Confirmation of academic dishonesty an also result in expulsion from the University of Central Florida.

5. Attendance and Withdrawal

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if he or she decides not to complete it. Students who discontinue attending class, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Take-home assignment 1	10%
Take-home assignment 2	10%
Final Examination	20%
4 Quizzes (5% each)	20%

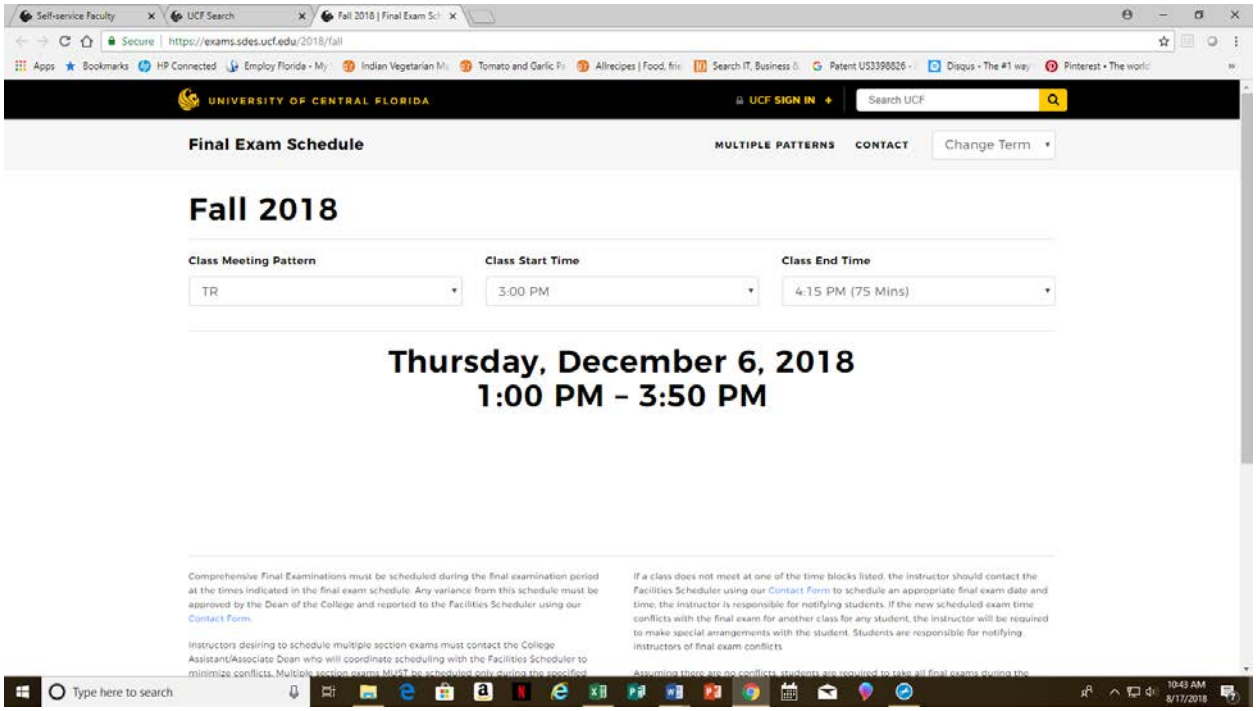
Special Needs

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

who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from me for the course. Once Student Disability Services has been contacted, I am happy to make any arrangements needed by my students.

Course Plan

The following is a schedule of readings, exams, and assignments for the course. Adjustments may be made if necessary such as in cases of inclement weather which would make travel to campus unsafe. Please note that if classes are suspended because of unsafe weather conditions, students should still adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

Date	Topics	pages
August 21	Introduction to the course	
23	Chapter 1: The Definition and Measurement of Concepts.	1-18
28	Chapter 2: Measuring and Describing Variables	24-43
30	Chapter 3: Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons **Quiz 1 in-class** **First take-home assignment given**	48-58
September 4	Chapter 3(cont.): making comparisons **First take-home assignment due**	58-70
6	Chapter 4 (first half): Research Design and the Logic of Control; review for exam	78 - 84
11	**Exam 1 in-class**	
13	Films: Milgram and Zimbardo experiments via webcourses	
18	web discussion of Milgram and Zimbardo experiments	
20	Chapter 4 (second half)	84 - 97
25	Chapter 5: Making Controlled Comparisons	102-109
27	Chapter 5 cont.: **Quiz 2 in-class** **Second take-home assignment given**	109-118
October 2	Chapter 6: Foundations of Statistical Inference (Population parameters & Sample statistics; Random sampling; Standard Error of a Sample Mean) **Second take-home assignment due**	122-141
4	Chapter 6 (cont.): (Normal distribution; Student's t distribution; Sample proportions)	141-153
9	**Exam 2 in-class**	
11	Chapter 7: Tests of Significance and Measures of Association (Statistical Significance; Chi-square)	156-170
16	Chapter 7 (cont.) Measures of Association	170-178
18	Chapter 8: Correlation and Linear Regression (Correlation); **Quiz 3 in-class**	183-188
23	Chapter 8 (cont.): Correlation application	
25	Chapter 8 (cont.): Bivariate regression	188-198

30	Chapter 8 (cont.): Bivariate regression application; Dummy variable regression	198-201
November 1	Chapter 8 (cont.): Multiple regression	201-209
6	Multiple regression application	
8	Chapter 9: Logistic regression (cont.) **Quiz 4 in-class**	215-226
13	Logistic regression application	
15	Chapter 9: Logistic regression (cont.); Maximum Liklihood Estimation (MLE)	226-239
20	MLE application	
22	**Thanksgiving – class does not meet**	
27	Application round-up	
29	Last day	
December 6	**Final Exam in-class begins promptly at <u>1pm</u> and finishes at <u>3:30pm</u>**