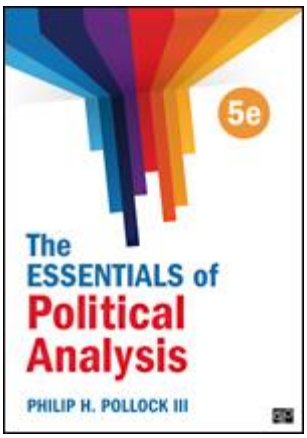
Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0002)
Pollock / Fall 2018

Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall
Office hours	MW: 9:00-10:15, 12:30-2:00 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 **You must obtain the 5th edition of these books.**
Website resources	PowerPoint slides and video lectures for all chapters in *Essentials*. Video lectures for all chapters in *SPSS Companion*. **You are responsible for the content of this material**.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Course catalog description
Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 3
Lab and Field Work Hours: 0
Contact Hours: 3
Prerequisite(s): None. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): **POS 2041** or C.I.
The scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology. *Fall, Spring*

Course expanded description
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 most labs on campus, as well as on UCF Apps: http://apps.ucf.edu/

Class sessions include (a) lectures and (b) SPSS skill-set development. 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. **You are responsible for all of the assigned course material, including the *Essentials* textbook, *SPSS Companion* workbook, PowerPoint slides, and video lectures.**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Think critically about political science concepts
- Think logically about complex relationships
- Learn to create new measures of concepts
- Learn intermediate to advanced data analysis skills
- Learn to evaluate statistical evidence in social and general media
- Learn to differentiate political opinions based on facts and those based on values

REQUIREMENTS

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. **I will begin taking attendance on Monday, August 27**.

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 two exams during the term, each of which will contain an in-class component (25 percent each) and a take-home component (10 percent each). The take-homes will be downloaded from the course site and turned in online. No early exams. No make-up exams. The exams will follow this schedule:

Exam:	*Taken or Due on:*
In-class exam 1	October 10
Take-home exam 1	October 12
In-class exam 2	November 28
Take-home exam 2	December 3 (10 a.m.)

Note: No class will be held on the following days: Friday, August 31; Monday, September 3; Monday, November 12; and Friday, November 23. Attendance will not be taken on the following day: Wednesday, November 21.

In-class exams are held during regularly scheduled class times. Take-home 1 will open immediately following In-class exam I on October 10 and will be due *no later than* 30 minutes before the beginning of class on October 12. Take-home exam 2 will open immediately following In-class exam 2 on November 28 and is due *no later than* December 3 at 10 a.m.

GRADING SCALE

Numeric	90-above	87-89	80-86	77-79	70-76	67-69	60-66	59-below
Letter	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

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 24 at 11:59 p.m. **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/

POLICY STATEMENTS

Professionalism and Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner. Disrupted behavior, profanity, or any other offensive behavior will not be tolerated. **All mobile devices must be turned off and put out of view during class.** Repeated violations of professionalism will result in a reduction in course grade.

Title IX
All UCF students and faculty must strictly adhere to Title IX policies. "Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the sex (gender) of employees and students of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination includes prohibition of sexual harassment and sexual violence. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature and can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including rape and sexual assault…UCF does not tolerate sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence of any kind." For more information, see https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu/

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**."

Course Accessibility
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Campus Safety
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the

door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.

- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk) about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact me to discuss your circumstances.

Note: No class will be held on the following days:
Friday, August 31(Instructor at conference)
Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)
Monday, November 12 (Veterans Day)
Friday, November 23 (Thanksgiving)
Attendance will not be taken on the following day: Wednesday, November 21.

SCHEDULE FOR THE TERM

Week of	***Topic***	***Reading***	***Videos*****
Aug20 Aug27	Concepts and measurement	*ESSENTIALS*: Introduction, Ch1	Essentials_5E_Introduction *[1 video]* Essentials_5E_Chapter1_part1-part2 *[2 videos]*
[Sep3] Sep10	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]*
Sep17 Sep24	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch3 *SPSS*: Ch3	Essentials_5E_Chapter3_part1-part5 *[5 videos]* *SPSS* videos: Chapter3, Transformations *[4 videos]*
Oct1 Oct8	Making comparisons	*SPSS*: Ch4	*SPSS* videos: Chapter 4 *[4 videos]*
Oct10	**In-class exam 1**		

Oct12	**Take-home exam 1 due**		
Oct15 Oct22	Research design	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch4	Essentials_5E_Chapter4_part1-part2 *[2 videos]*
Oct29	Understanding controlled comparisons	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch5	Essentials_5E_Chapter5_part1, part3 *[2 videos]* (part1 also contains part2)
Nov5 *[Nov12]*	Making controlled comparisons	*SPSS*: Ch5	*SPSS* videos: Chapter 5 *[5 videos]*
Nov19	Foundations of inference	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch6	Essentials_5E_Chapter6_part1-part4 *[4 videos]*
Nov26	Correlation and linear regression	*ESSENTIALS*: Ch8 *SPSS*: Ch8	Essentials_5E_Chapter8 *[7 videos]* *SPSS* videos: Chapter 8 *[4 videos]*
Nov28 **Dec3**	**In-class exam 2** **Take-home exam 2 due, 10 a.m.**		

****ESSENTIALS** videos are linked on Webcourses. *SPSS* folders are linked on Webcourses.