POS 3703-0001:
Scope and Methods of Political Science
Department of Political Science
College of Sciences
3 Credit Hours

Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Jonathan Powell, PhD	Term:	Fall 2018
Office:	305D Howard Phillips Hall	Class Meeting Days:	MWF
Office Hours:	T 9-11; W 12-2	Class Meeting Time:	9:30-10:20
Phone:	407-828-2082	Class Location:	HPH 310
Email:	Jonathan.powell@ucf.edu	Course Modality:	Face to face
GTA(s):	Devyn Escalanti	Email:	Webcourses

Course Description

The scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology.

This class is primarily focused on teaching students how to answer questions of political relevance. While scholars, politicians, and pundits may squabble over *why* something should or should not be done, or why or why not political beings behave in a particular way, we can all agree on the need to be able to assess these questions as objectively as possible. This class will improve the ability of students to scientifically assess data by introducing them to the basic tools of contemporary political science. Our focus will mainly coincide with three broad themes: how to measure variables, how to assess the association between those variables, and how to make inferences based on our work.

Student Learning Outcomes

In doing so, students will

1. Learn to construct testable (and falsifiable) hypotheses related to politics.
2. Identify and/or construct data that will allow hypotheses to be tested.
3. Utilize methodological tools to assess the association between variables.
4. Learn to utilize statistical software, specifically Stata
5. Draw inferences from data.
6. Be familiar with the limitations of the tools that they, and other political scientists, utilize.

Enrollment Requirements
Prerequisites: POS 2041 or C.I.

Important Dates
See course schedule for important dates regarding class requirements. Below are other dates that may be of importance to students.

Aug 20	Classes Begin
Aug 23	Drop/Swap Deadline
Sept 3	Labor Day, no classes
Oct 26	Withdrawal Deadline
Nov 12	Veteran's Day, no classes
Nov 23	Thanksgiving, no classes
Dec 7	Final Exam (7:00 am)
Dec 12	Grades due in myUCF (12:00pm)

Assignment Submission
Some assignments will require submission via webcourses. Consequently, students will need to have access to a reliable computer and internet connection.

Assessment and Grading Procedures
The cumulative semester grade will be based on quizzes, exams, chapter assignments, data assignments, and a final. Within each of these categories, assignments have the same value. Each quiz, for example, is of equal value to all other quizzes. All grades will be posted in webcourses. A breakdown of how final grades are determined is available in the table to the right.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92.99 points
B+	87 – 89.99 points
B	83 – 86.99 points
B-	80 – 82.99 points
C+	77 – 79.99 points
C	73 – 76.99 points
C-	70 – 72.99 points
D+	67 – 69.99 points
D	63 – 66.99 points
D-	60 – 62.99 points
F	59 and below

Quizzes (20% of semester grade)
Each quiz will be of equal value to other quizzes (regardless of length). The average of them will act as the quiz grade for the semester. Online quizzes will usually be comprised of 10 questions randomly drawn from a question bank of 15-25 questions and will usually be limited to an average of around one minute per question for multiple choice/fill in the blank responses and are open book/open note. Students should be aware, however, that excessive reliance on notes or the readings will make it incredibly difficult to complete quizzes in the time allotted. You need to be fully prepared before beginning the quizzes.

Webcourses will attempt to automatically grade fill-in-the blank responses based on a stated set of correct responses. The system often makes errors due to variations in spelling, capitalization, use of abbreviations, etc. Either the instructor or the TA will review these questions after the quiz closes. There is no need to contact us prior to the quiz closing, and quizzes will not be graded or corrected prior to the quiz closing.

In instructor anticipates having at least 5 in-class quizzes during the semester. Though these will usually be announced at least one class session in advance, the instructor reserves the right to hold unannounced quizzes at any point during the semester.

Errors are occasionally made, either via a glitch in webcourses or human error on the part of the instructor or TA. If you think a question has been graded incorrectly, contact the instructor and/or TA. The question will be reviewed, but neither the instructor or TA will discuss quizzes that have not closed.

Chapter Assignments (20% of semester grade)
Each chapter of the textbook includes questions regarding the chapter's content. *Typed* responses to these questions will be due the class session following the session in which the reading should be completed. For example, if a reading should be done for a Monday class, the end-of-chapter assignment is due Wednesday.

For cases in which the assignment requires filling in a table or graph, a sample template (in MS Word) will be uploaded to Webcourses.

Data Assignments (20% of semester grade)
Students will complete four data assignments during the class. These will require students to accomplish tasks including deciding on appropriate measures to use to account for a specific concept, coding and/or recoding data in order to be able to use it for a specific purpose, running basic tests of association, and interpreting statistical results.

Exams (30% of semester grade)
There will be three in-semester exams. Though primarily covering content covered since the last previous exam, this will ultimately be cumulative and students should continue to review prior class materials for all exams.

Final Exam (10% of semester grade)
All students are required to take a cumulative final exam. The exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Make-up Exams and Assignments
The Undergraduate Catalog states, "Reasons for acceptable absences may include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, and religious holidays." Excused absences will require proper documentation and/or prior consent of the instructor.

Materials turned in late will be assessed a penalty of 10% for each day past due, beginning at 1 minute past the announced deadline, up until 48 hours after the due time. Make up exams will be allowed only when the student can document an extraordinary circumstance that can verify they were unable to complete it. Students should make arrangements to take exams in advance of an absence if they know beforehand they will miss class.

Enrolling in this class indicates you have access to a reliable internet connection and an electronic device that meets all system and browser requirements (https://cdl.ucf.edu/learn-online/what-are-the-technology-requirements/). Technical problems associated with your device and connection will not result in extensions or retakes. Extensions due to technical issues will only be allowed when UCF IT can verify the problem was on UCF's end.

Attendance/Participation

Attendance is not specifically mandatory, that is, attendance is not a directly graded component. However, classes will incorporate substantial material from outside of the book and data assignments in particular will effectively require presence,

Absences will make it *extremely* difficult to succeed in the class.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit opportunities for this class.

Academic Integrity

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

http://academicintegrity.org/

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources come from the Council of Writing Program Administrators (http://wpacouncil.org/node/9 and have been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism
In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledg-ing its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

All components of every assignment should reflect the individual work of the student.

Misuse of Sources
A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropri-ately.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials
There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes
Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk. All materials I will be using this semester are completely new.

In-Class Recording Policy
Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also 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 should be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Campus Safety Statement
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). (insert class specific information if appropriate)
- 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 your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Communication
Students should be prepared to

- Correspond directly through webcourses or via their official UCF Knights email account (this is required by UCF; instructors are not permitted to correspond with your non-UCF email accounts and messages from those accounts may be ignored)

- Include "POS 3703" in the subject line of messages (I will prioritize emails I see coming from the class
- Include a salutation and write messages in proper English

Class Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Reading	Assignments Due
August 20	None	None
August 22	Thyne Ch. 1; Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz
August 24		Ch. 1 Assignment
August 27	Thyne Ch. 2	None
August 29	Datafile	Ch. 2 Assignment
August 31	No new readings	None
September 3	No Class	None
September 5	Thyne Ch. 3	None
September 7	Datafile	Ch. 3 Assignment
September 10	Thyne Ch. 4	None
September 12	Datafile	Ch. 4 Assignment
September 14	No new readings	Data Assignment 1
September 17	Article TBA	None
September 19	No new readings	None
September 21	Exam 1	Exam 1
September 24	Thyne Ch. 5	None
September 26	Datafile	Ch. 5 Assignment
September 28	No new readings	None
October 1	Thyne Ch. 6	None
October 3	Datafile	Ch. 6 Assignment
October 5	No new readings	Data Assignment 2
October 8	Thyne Ch. 7	None
October 10	No new readings	Ch. 7 Assignment
October 12	Exam 2*	Exam 2
October 15	Thyne Ch. 8	None
October 17	Datafile	Ch. 8 Assignment
October 19	No new readings	None
October 22	Thyne Ch. 9	None
October 24	Datafile	Ch. 9 Assignment
October 26	No new readings	Data Assignment 3
October 29	Thyne Ch. 10	None
October 31	Datafile	Ch. 10 Assignment
November 2	None	None
November 5	Thyne Ch. 11	None
November 7	Datafile	Ch. 11 Assignment
November 9	No new readings	Data Assignment 4
November 12	Veterans Day, No Class	None
November 14	Thyne, Chapter 12	None

November 16	No new readings*	Ch. 12 Assignment
November 19	No new readings	None
November 21	Exam 3	Exam 3
November 23	Thanksgiving, no class	None
November 26	Article TBA	None
November 28	No new readings	None
November 30	No new readings	None
December 7 (7:00 am)	Final Exam	Final Exam