POS 3703 Scope & Methods

Political Science Department

University of Central Florida

Instructor: Christine Regnier-Bachand

Term:	Fall 2018
Class Meeting Days:	Tuesday and Thursday
Class Meeting Hours:	Time 9am-10:15 am
Class Location:	HPH 310
Lab Location:	HPH 310

Office Number: HPH 313

Email: Regnier-bachand@knights.ucf.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8am-9am and by appointment

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 15% 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. Research Paper- 15% of final grade. This will be an original research design. We will discuss what the paper entails but please note, the paper is to be 16-18 pages, double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman Font using APSA style citations. If the paper is submitted in any other format it will be given a 0.
6. Final Exam- 20% 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 10% per day late, with a maximum deduction of 50%. After 5 days late work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0. Quizzes will not be accepted late,

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.

I reserve the right to change or alter this syllabus at anytime. This syllabus is not a contract and may be altered by the professor as I deem necessary.

SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Tuesday August 21, 2018	Syllabus Overview and Course Introduction
Thursday August 23th, 2018 Drop Deadline 11:59 p.m.	• Syllabus Quiz Due 11:59 p.m.(Financial aid activity)
Tuesday August 28th, 2018	• Lecture- Defining Concepts, Measurement of concepts. • Quiz 1 opens Wednesday August 29, and closes Sunday September 2rd, at 11:59 pm.

Thursday August 30st	Lab Assignment 1 Exercises 1&2 from the SPSS Companion Chapter 1. Due by 11:59pm Aug 30th on Webcourses • .
Tuesday September 4th	• Lecture – Descriptive Statistics and measuring variables. Chapter 2 in the Pollock essentials book. Please read prior to class. • Quiz 2 will open Wednesday September 5th and close at 11:59 pm on Sunday Sept. 9th
Thursday Sept 6th	• Lab Assignment 2 - Chapter 2 from the SPSS Companion. Transforming variables. Complete exercises 1,2, 3. 4. Turn in the assignment on webcourses by Tuesday September 11th at 11:59pm.
Tuesday Sept 11th	• Lecture- Chapter 3 from the Pollock essentials book. Please read this chapter prior to class. • Quiz 3 will open on Wednesday Sept 12th and close Sunday September 16th at 11:59 pm
Thursday Sept 13th	• Lab- Chapter 3 in the SPSS companion. • Complete exercises 1-3. Turn in by Monday September 17th at 11:59 pm
Tuesday Sept 18th	• Lecture- Read Chapter 4 in the Essentials of Political analysis • Quiz 4 opens Wednesday September 19 and closes Sunday Sept 23rdst at 11:59pm.
Thursday September 20th	Lab- Chapter 4 in the SPSS companion, making comparisons. Complete exercises 1-5 in the SPSS companion and submit via webcourses by Monday Sept 24th at 11:59pm
Tuesday Sept 25th	• Lecture- Chapter 5 in the Essentials book. Quiz 5 due by Sunday Sept 30th by 11:59pm

Thursday Sept 27th	• Lab Assignment 5 Exercises 1-5 in SPSS companion are due by Monday October 1st at 11:59 pm in webcourses.
Tuesday Oct 2rd	• Midterm review
Thursday Oct 4th	• Midterm Exam
Tuesday Oct 9th	• Lecture- Chapter 6 Essentials Book • Quiz 6 due Sunday October 14th t 11:59 pm
Thursday Oct 11th	• Lab- Chapter 6 SPSS Companion. Lab assignment 6 exercises 1-4 SPSS companion due Tuesday oct 16th at 11:59pm on webcourses.
Tuesday Oct 16th	• Lecture- Chapter 7 of the Pollock essentials book. • Quiz 7 due Sunday Oct 21st at 11:59pm
Thursday Oct 18th	• Lab- Chapter 7 from the SPSS companion. Lab assignment 7 due by Tuesday Oct 23rd at 11:59 pm on webcourses. Submit exercises 1-5 from Chapter 7 of the companion.
Tuesday Oct 23rd	• Read chapter 8 in the essentials book. Quiz 8 due Sunday Oct 28th by 11:59 pm.
Thursday Oct 25th	• Lab- Chapter 8 in the SPSS companion. Complete lab assignment 8 and submit in webcourses by 11:59pm on Tuesday Oct 30th. Exercises 1-6..
Tuesday Oct 30th	• Lecture on Chapter 9. Quiz 9 due by Sunday November 4thth at 11:59 pm.
Thursday Nov 1st	• Lab Chapter 9 in SPSS companion. Answer exercises 1-3 in Chapter 9 of the SPSS companion book, due Tuesday November 6th 2017 in webcourses by 11:59 pm.

Nov 6th Tuesday	• Start discussing research paper
Thursday Nov 8th	• Research paper
Tuesday Nov 13th	• Research paper
Thursday Nov 15h	Research paper
Tuesday Nov 20th	No class
Thursday Nov 22nd	NO CLASS – Thanks giving
Tuesday Nov 27th	Paper Due and Final exam Review
Thursday Nov 29th	No class study for final exam
Thursday Dec 6th	Final exam from 7am-9:50AM