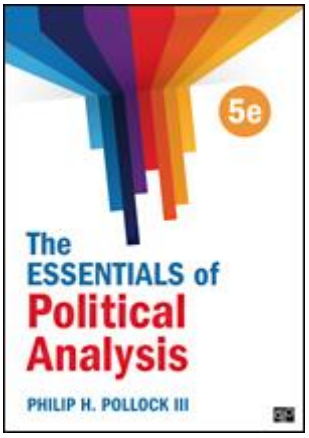
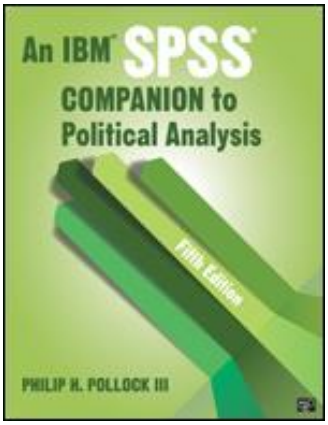
Scope and Methods of Political Science (POS3703.0003)
Pollock / Spring 2017

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	TTh Noon-3:00 p.m. 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**.





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. Lab computer monitors may be turned on **only** during SPSS skill-set development. **During lectures: Lab computer monitors, laptops, and all other devices must be turned off.** (See cell phone policy below.)

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.**

REQUIREMENTS
Your course grade has three components: Attendance (15 percent), Assignments (15 percent), and Exams (70 percent).

- **Attendance. 15 percent.** Attendance is required. Do not arrive late or leave early. Late arrivals count as absences. Early departures count as absences. Phone usage counts as an absence. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet each day.
- **Signature verification**. During the first week of class, you must sign the signature verification sheet. I will match your signature on the signature verification sheet against your signature on the daily attendance sheet. If the two do not match, I will mark you absent for that day. Because the signature verification sheet is the key to determining attendance, **I cannot begin awarding you credit for attendance until you have signed the signature verification sheet.**
- **Assignments**. **15 percent**. You will complete regular online assignments during the term. Assignments must be completed and posted during the online availability window. I will not accept handed-in or emailed assignments. No make-up assignments. No extra credit.
- **Exams. 70 percent.** There will be two exams during the term. Each exam will have an in-class component (25 percent each) and a take-home component (10 percent each). No early exams. No make-up exams. The exams will follow this schedule:

Exam	In-class taken on:	Take-home due on:
1	February 28	March 2
2	April 20	May 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

Grading Scale. Your course grade is determined by this numeric scale:

0-59	60-66	67-69	70-76	77-79	80-86	87-89	90-100
F	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A

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**.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE DEVICES
I do not permit mobile device usage during class. Smartphones, iPods, notepads, and other similar devices must be silenced and kept out of view. **Each violation of this rule will result in a 1-day reduction in attendance points.**

FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENT
All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to verify that you began this course, you must complete the academic activity "quiz" by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday, January 13, 2017. 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/

Schedule for the term.

Class of:	*Topic*	*Essentials**	*Companion**
Jan10 Jan12 Jan17 Jan19	Concepts and measurement	Introduction, Ch1	
Jan24 Jan26 Jan31	Measuring and describing variables	Ch2	Getting Started, Ch1, Ch2
Feb2 Feb7 Feb9	Explanations, hypotheses, comparisons	Ch3	Ch3
Feb14 Feb16 Feb21 Feb23	Making comparisons		Ch4
Feb28 **Mar2**	**In-class exam 1** **Take-home exam 1 due**		
Mar7 Mar9 *[Break]*	Research design	Ch4	
Mar21 Mar23	Understanding controlled comparisons	Ch5	
Mar28 Mar30	Making controlled comparisons		Ch5
Apr4 Apr6	Inference and measures of association	Ch6, Ch7	Ch7
Apr11 Apr13 Apr18	Regression analysis	Ch8	Ch8
April 20 **May 2**	**In-class exam 2** **Take-home exam 2 due, 10:00 a.m.**		

*Video lectures of material also is required.