POS 3703: SCOPE AND METHODS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Spring 2017
Tue-Thu 12:00 PM-1:15 PM, HPH 310

Professor: Barbara Sgouraki Kinsey
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Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-11:00 AM; Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM;
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the logic and methods of social science research in general and political science in particular. Emphasis will be placed on the logic of research design and data analysis. Students learn techniques of quantitative analysis including statistical inference, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis, and analyze political datasets using statistical software.

TEXTS AND READINGS:

Philip H. Pollock III. 2016. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 5th Edition. CQ Press

Philip H. Pollock III. 2016. *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*. 5th Edition. CQ Press

Additional readings will be distributed to students at class meetings.

SOFTWARE:

We will be using **SPSS** in this course. I assume that you have no prior experience with this software. Laboratory sessions will introduce students to the software and provide time to address questions related to the lectures and assignments.

You can access the SPSS software on your PC computer or laptop via UCF Apps. For information please visit the links below:

Information: http://apps.ucf.edu
Login: http://my.apps.ucf.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Course grades are determined by (1) attendance, (2) ten homework assignments, and (3) two in-class **open-book** exams. Assignments are to be turned in ***by Noon (beginning of class) on the days specified in the syllabus*.** Except for cases involving overriding personal circumstances, late work will not be accepted.

There will be two open-book exams. Each exam will cover the portion of the course preceding it. The second exam will not be a comprehensive final exam.

Grades are a weighted average of the following requirements:

Requirement:	Weight:
1. Attendance	15%
2. Ten Assignments	40%
3. Two Exams	45%

The plus/minus grading system will apply in this course:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Students must fulfill the following tasks:

1. Attend class.
2. Complete reading assignments on time.
3. Complete **ten** assignments on time.
4. Take **two** open-book exams in class

In case you think you are failing the course, please contact the professor right away.

A grade of "**I**" is only given in cases of extreme emergency or special & well documented circumstances late in the semester, provided that you have been making satisfactory progress. In order to be considered for an "I", students **must** contact and make arrangements with the professor prior to the scheduled final exam.

Recording Academic Activity Policy

As of Fall 2014, 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 assignment on the online page of the course 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. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371 TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116**.**

Laptops (or Substitutes)

Please note that no laptops (or substitutes) will be used in class. The computer screens should be on **only** during lab sessions (otherwise they should be off).

If there is anything in the syllabus that is unclear**, it is up to the student to contact the professor for clarification.** Also, it is the student's responsibility to be informed of any announcements made in class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class. Students are responsible for any changes in syllabus/schedule which are announced in class.

Reading assignments in the schedule refer to *The Essentials of Political Analysis

Week of	Topics Covered:	Assignments:
January 9	Introduction to Course	
January 16	Scientific Study: Elements of Research	Pollock: *Essentials of Political Analysis** Introduction Chapter 1, pp. 1-9 Chapter 3, pp. 48-58 Chapter 4, pp. 84-97
January 23	Research Design: Experiments	Pollock: Chapter 4 (also review pp. 84-97) ***Assignment 1 Due: 1/26***
January 30	Measurement Sampling ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 1, pp. 9-18 Chapter 2, pp. 24-29 Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 123-130 ***Assignment 2 Due: 2/2***
February 6	Description of Data ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 2, pp. 29-43; Chapter 6, pp. 130-133 ***Assignment 3 Due: 2/9***
February 13	Probability The Normal Distribution	Reading to be distributed Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 133-141 ***Assignment 4 Due: 2/16***

February 20	Inference ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 6, pp. 141-153 ***Assignment 5 Due: 2/23***
February 27	Review for First Exam **First Exam**	***Assignment 6 Due: 3/2***
March 6	Hypothesis Testing Error Types ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 7, pp. 156-165
March 13	***Spring Break***	
March 20	Contingency Tables (***SPSS lab***)	Pollock: Chapter 3, pp. 58-63 Chapter 5, pp. 102-108 Chapter 7, pp. 165-170 ***Assignment 7 Due: 3/23***
March 27	Correlation ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 183-188 ***Assignment 8 Due: 3/30***
April 3	Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 188-198 ***Assignment 9 Due: 4/6***
April 10	Regression Analysis ***(SPSS lab)***	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 198-203
April 17	Regression Analysis Review for second Exam	Pollock: Chapter 8, pp. 188-209 ***Assignment 10 Due: 4/20***
Exam Week	**Second Exam**	