Syllabus
POS 3703: Scope and Methods of Political Science
Spring 2018

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Nathan Ilderton
Office	302 Howard Philips Hall (Orlando Campus) 328 Building 11, Valencia West (West Campus)
Office Hours	10:00am-12:00pm Monday and Wednesday (Orlando Campus) 3:30pm-5:30pm Monday (West Campus) During these times I will be available in the class Chat Room.
Phone	407-823-2608
E-mail	Please contact me via the email function within webcourses for all class related emails. Click my profile under people and select send message. If webcourses is down you can reach me via my University email: Nathan.Ilderton@ucf.edu.

Course Information

Course Name	Scope and Methods of Political Science
Course ID & Section	POS 3703 Section
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location	Online

Course Description

This course is an introduction to research methods used in political science. We will examine the use of the scientific method in the study of politics. This includes examining the measurement of concepts, research design, and hypothesis formation. We will also several techniques used to test hypotheses in political science. This will include a study of comparisons, significance tests, and an introduction to the OLS and logistic regression models.

Prerequisite: POS 2041 or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to teach students to apply objective scientific analysis to political problems. Students will also learn to understand and critically evaluate statistical analyses they will encounter in their future course work, research, and everyday consumption of political information.

Required Text

- Phillip H. Pollock III, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 5th edition. (Sage/CQ Press).
- Phillip H. Pollock III, *An IBM SPSS Companion to Political Analysis.* (Sage/CQ Press).

Course Requirements

The course is divided into six two week segments. During these periods a module with two lectures will be available. You will be required in each period to complete two exercises, typically a SPSS assignment. Between modules three and four a midterm exam will be available for a week. After module six you will be given a free week to complete the paper assignment followed by a week in which you must complete the final exam. Modules will open on the Monday at the beginning of the first week and close the Sunday after the fifth week at 11:59 pm.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

I will not allow missed assignments to be made up without a documented university excused absence. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to complete a module on time please inform me prior to the closing time. If you cannot inform me ahead of time, please inform me within one business day of the closing of the module either via phone or email. Date and time of makeup modules will be determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. I reserve the right to change the format and questions of makeup modules at my discretion.

Evaluation and Grading

Each module will consist of two lectures with reading and lecture materials you will be required to read or watch. Accompanying each module will be two exercises, each corresponding to one of the lecture. There will be a total of 11 of these exercises (the syllabus quiz attached to lecture one does not count toward the final grade). Most of the exercises will utilize the *SPSS Companion* book and the IBM SPSS statistical program. Instructions on accessing this program and the datasets can be found on the "Getting Started with SPSS" page. These exercises will be submitted via the quizzes link where portions of assigned exercises will be replicated for ease of submission. You will be limited to 30 minutes to submit these assignments. I urge you to complete the exercise assigned in the workbook and then begin the assignment online and submit the necessary information. A few assignments will use the questions at the end of a chapter of the *Essentials of Political Analysis* book. These questions will be replicated in the quiz function as well. Exercises will be worth between ten to fifteen points each.

Following module six you will have a week free of other assignments to finish the course paper. This will be a critique of a political science research article. The details of the paper assignment are available here. I encourage you to choose an article and begin work on the paper early in the course.

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will be available for a week following module three, the final will be available for a week following the free week for the paper. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Because of the nature of the material in this course, the final will include concepts covered by the midterm exam, though its focus will be on material from the second half of the course. The midterm exam is due February 25th. The final exam is due April 29th.

There is a 90 minute time limit for the completion of exams. Also, be aware that you only get one attempt to complete an exercise or exam, i.e. once you start an exercise or exam you must complete it.

Assignments will be weighted in the following manner for calculating the final grade.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Exercises	25
Paper	25
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Total	100

Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale.

Letter Grade	Points
A	89.5 – 100

B	79.5 – 89.4
C	69.5 – 79.4
D	59.5 – 69.4
F	59.4 or below

Student Engagement and Financial Aid

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 syllabus 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.

The syllabus quiz is a five question multiple choice quiz and can be found under the "Quizzes" tab. The only purpose of the syllabus quiz is to satisfy the financial aid requirement for this class. It will not be included in the calculation of your 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.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these

items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

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.

Schedule

Modules assignments and exams open at midnight on the open date and close at 11:59pm on the close date.

Lecture	Topic	Reading	Exercise	Open Date	Due Date
Lecture 1	Thinking About Politics Scientifically	Essentials, Introduction	Syllabus Quiz*	January 8th	January 21st
Lecture 2	Measuring Variables	Essentials, Ch. 1 and 2	Companion, pg 14-5 Exercises 1, 2 pg.30-5 Exercises 3, 5, 6	January 8th	January 21st
Lecture 3	Theories and Hypotheses	Essentials, Ch. 3, pg. 48-58	Companion, pg 55-7 Exercises 1, 2, 3	January 22nd	February 4th
Lecture 4	Making Comparisons	Essentials, Ch. 3, pg. 58-77	Companion pg. 75-81 Exercises 1, 3, 6, 7	January 22nd	February 4th
Lecture 5	Research Design	Essentials, Ch. 4	Essentials, pg 97-9 Exercises 2, 3, 5	February 5th	February 18th
Lecture 6	Control Variables	Essentials, Ch. 4 and 5	Companion, pg 106-13. Exercises 1, 3, 4	February 5th	February 18th
	Exam 1			**February 19th**	**February 25th**

Lecture 7	Statistical Inference	Essentials, Ch. 6	Essentials, pg. 153-5 Exercises 1, 4, 6	February 26th	March 11th
Lecture 8	Tests of Significance	Essentials, Ch 7	Companion, pg. 126-9 Exercises 1, 3, 4	February 26th	March 11th
	Spring Break			**March 12th**	**March 18th**
Lecture 9	Measures of Association and Correlation	Essentials Ch. 7 and Ch. 8, pg. 183-8	Companion pg. 142-5 Exercises 2, 3, 4	March 19th	April 1st
Lecture 10	Bivariate Regression	Essentials Ch. 8, pg. 188-201	Companion pg. 163-5 Exercises 1, 3, 4	March 19th	April 1st
Lecture 11	Multiple Regression	Essentials Ch. 8, pg. 201-214	Companion pg. 165 Exercise 5 pg. 180-6 Exercises 1, 4	April 2nd	April 15th
Lecture 12	Logistic Regression	Essentials Ch. 9	Companion pg. 205-9 Exercises 1, 3	April 2nd	April 15th
	Paper			**April 16th**	**April 22nd**
	Exam 2			**April 23rd**	**April 29th**

Note: All dates and times are subject to change by Dr. Ilderton. Be informed and routinely check the Schedule and Class Email or Announcements for any changes or updates.

*Syllabus quiz for financial aid purposes due by end of 1st week of class or as soon as possible after adding the class. Syllabus quiz will not count toward assignment grade or final course grade.