POS 3703 Scope & Methods

Political Science Department

University of Central Florida

Instructor: Christine Regnier-Bachand

Term:	Spring 2018
Class Meeting Days:	Tuesday and Thursday
Class Meeting Hours:	Time: 4:30-5:45 pm
Class Location:	HPH 310
Lab Location:	HPH 310

Office Number: HPH 313

Email: Regnier-bachand@knights.ucf.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3-4pm

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 15% 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 20% 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 15% of final grade. These quizzes will open on Wednesdays and will close on the following Sunday night at 11:59pm.
5. Final Exam- 30% 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 5% per day late, with a maximum deduction of 25%. After 5 days late work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

Grading Scale:

A 100-94%

A- 93-90

B+ 89-86%

B 85-82%

B- 81-8

C+ 79-77%

C 76-73%

C- 72-70

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.

SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Tuesday January 9th	Syllabus Overview and Course Introduction
Thursday January 11th, 2018 Drop Deadline 11:59 p.m.	• Syllabus Quiz Due 11:59 p.m.(Financial aid activity) • Read for Today Essentials Chapter 1 and Introduction
Tuesday January 16th	• Lecture- Defining Concepts, Measurement of concepts. • Quiz 1 opens Wednesday January 17th and closes Sunday January 21st at 11:59 pm

Thursday January 18th	• Lab Assignment 1 Exercises 1&2 from the SPSS Companion Chapter 1. Due by 11:59pm on Webcourses.
Tuesday January 23rd	• Lecture – Descriptive Statistics and measuring variables. Chapter 2 in the Pollock essentials book. Please read prior to class. • Quiz 2 will open Wednesday January 24th and close at 11:59 pm on Sunday January 28th
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Thursday January 25th	• Lab Assignment 2 - Chapter 2 from the SPSS Companion. Transforming variables. Complete exercises 1,2, 3. 4. Turn in the assignment on webcourses by Monday January 29th by 11:59pm
Tuesday January 30th	• Lecture- Chapter 3 from the Pollock essentials book. Please read this chapter prior to class. • Quiz 3 will open on Wednesday Jan 31st and close Sunday February 3rd at 11:59pm
Thursday Feb 1st	• Lab- Chapter 3 in the SPSS companion. Complete exercises 1-3. Turn in by Monday February 5th at 11:59pm.
Tuesday Feb 6th	• Lecture- Read Chapter 4 in the Essentials of Political analysis • Quiz 4 opens Wednesday Feb 4th and closes Sunday Feb 11th at 11:59pm.
Thursday Feb 8th	• Lab- Chapter 4 in the SPSS companion, making comparisons. Complete exercises 1-5 in the SPSS companion and submit via webcourses by Monday Feb 12th at 11:59pm.
Tuesday Feb 13th	• Lecture- Chapter 5 in the Essentials book. Quiz 5 due by Sunday feb 18th at 11:59 pm.

Thursday Feb 15th	• Lab Assignment 5 Exercises 1-5 in SPSS companion are due by Monday Feb 19th at 11:59 pm in webcourses.
Tuesday Feb 20th	• Midterm review
Thursday Feb 22nd Midterm Exam	• Midterm Exam- The midterm will be from chapters 1-5 in the Political Analysis Book, and the SPSS companion
Tuesday Feb 27th	• Lecture- Chapter 6 Essentials Book • Quiz 6 due Sunday March 4th at 11:59 pm
Thursday March 1st	• Lab- Chapter 6 SPSS Companion. Lab assignment 6 exercises 1-4 SPSS companion due Monday March 5th at 11:59pm on webcourses.
Tuesday March 6th	• Lecture- Chapter 7 of the Pollock essentials book. • Quiz 7 due Sunday March 11th at 11:59pm.
Thursday March 8th	• Lab- Chapter 7 from the SPSS companion. Lab assignment 7 due by Sunday March 11th at 11:59 pm on webcourses. Submit exercises 1-5 from Chapter 7 of the companion.
Tuesday March 13th	• Spring Break
Thursday March 15th	• Spring Break
Tuesday March 20th	• Lecture on Chapter 8. Quiz 8 due by Sunday March 25th at 11:59 pm.
Thursday March 22	• Lab Chapter 8 in SPSS companion. Answer exercises 1-3 in Chapter 8 of the SPSS companion book, due Monday March 26th in webcourses by 11:59 pm.

Tuesday March 27th	• Lecture- Chapter 9 Political Analysis Book. Quiz due Sunday April 1st by 11:59pm in webcourses
Thursday March 29th	Lab 9 and homework assignment 9 due Monday April 2nd by 11:59 pm. Complete problems 1-3
Tuesday April 3rd	. Lab 10 Logistic regression Complete all problems from Chapter 10 and submit by Monday April 9th
Thursday April 5th	Class discussion on political science articles. Readings will be assigned at least one week prior
Tuesday April 10th	Class discussion on readings
Thursday April 12th	Class discussion
Tuesday April 17th	Final exam review- this is the last class meeting
Thursday April 19th no class	No class study for your exam
FINAL EXAM Thursday April 26th	4pm-6:50pm pm HPH 310 (DO NOT MISS IT)