University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 | Section 3 | Spring - 2018
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 – 10:20 am, (3 credit hours)
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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E-Mail: lynne.gleiber@ucf.edu
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30 pm and by appointment
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Course Description
This course will examine techniques and concepts essential for conducting and understanding research in political science. It addresses fundamental components of analysis in political science and statistical techniques that are used. Students will be assigned readings from the required text book which will need to be completed in order to be prepared for class. In addition to discussion of the concepts that are introduced in the reading assignments in-class exercises using SPSS and Microsoft Excel will be given. Attending class therefore, is crucial to success in the course.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully complete the course will have obtained:

- Knowledge of the discipline of political science
- Knowledge of the application of the scientific method in the context of social science research
- Knowledge of the main components of quantitative research methods used by political scientist
- Ability to understand political analysis
- Understanding of the use of statistical packages such as SPSS and the ability to construct models of analysis and interpret results of analysis

Course Requirements
All students are expected to arrive on time. Cell phones or other communications devices must be turned off or silenced while in class. Students are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to class discussions. Work assignments must be completed before class.

Required text books: The two books are available as a package
Title: The Essentials of Political Analysis - Edition: 5
Author: Philip H Pollock III
Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

Title: An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th Edition Package - Edition: 5
Author: Philip H Pollock III
Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Take-home assignment 1	10%
Take-home assignment 2	10%
Final Examination	20%
4 Quizzes (5% each)	20%

Examinations and Grading

Three in-class exams will be given: two during the semester and one final exam. Questions will be based on information covered in the textbooks as well as material presented during class lectures, presentations, and discussions. Four in-class quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on the days scheduled. In addition, you will be given two take-home assignments. The dates for all exams, quizzes, and take-home assignments are listed in the course schedule below.

In the interest of fairness to all students, extra credit work will not be given. If a student misses an exam, he or she must provide sufficient justification for doing so (e.g. a documented emergency) to qualify for a make-up-exam. If documentation is not provided a make-up exam will not be given. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by telephone, voice mail or e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to discuss the possibility of being given a make-up exam. Students must arrive on time to take exams. No student will be allowed to begin an exam once other students have finished and left the exam room.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. For clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ . Students are Violations of the rules addressing academic integrity stated in The Golden Rule will result in documentation of the infraction and a grade of zero for the work in question. Confirmation of academic dishonesty an also result in expulsion from the University of Central Florida.

Attendance and Withdrawal

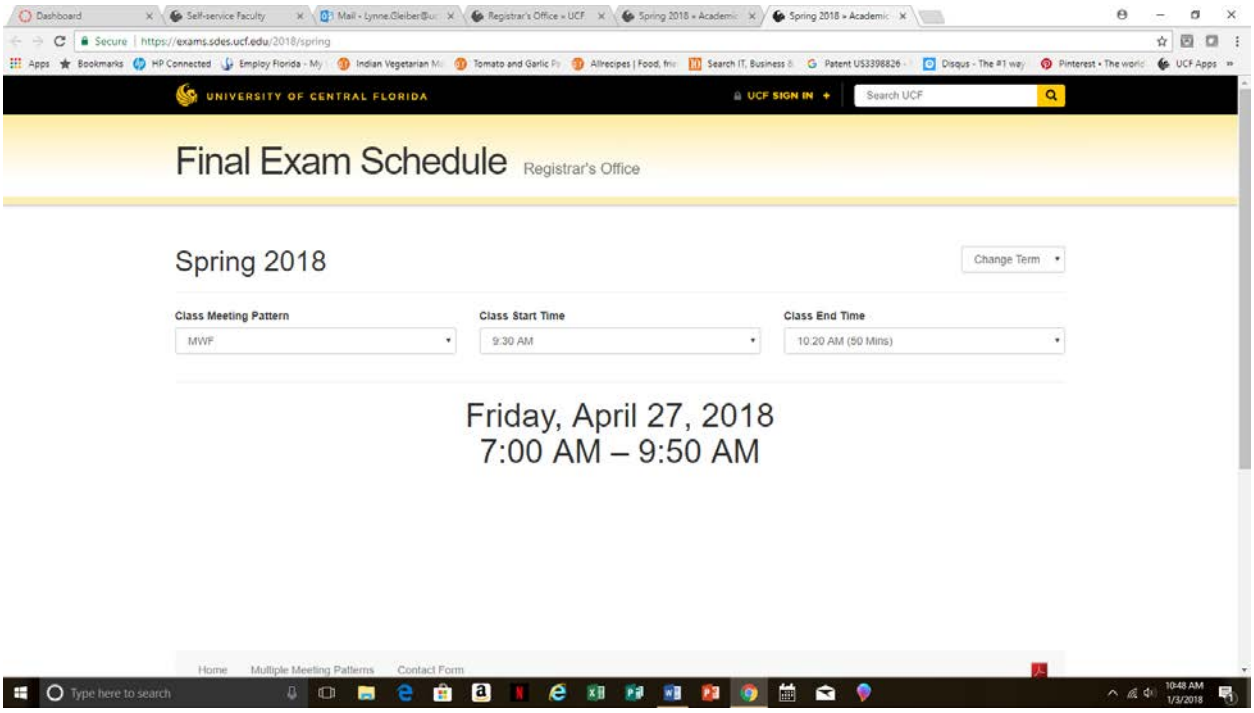
Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if he or she decides not to complete it. Students who discontinue attending class, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

Special Needs
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 who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from me for the course. Once Student Disability Services has been contacted, I am happy to make any arrangements needed by my students.

Course Plan
The following is a schedule of readings, exams, and assignments for the course. Adjustments may be made if necessary such as in cases of inclement weather which would make travel to campus unsafe. Please note that if classes are suspended because of unsafe weather conditions, students should still adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

	Course Schedule (subject to revision)	
Date	Topics	Reading assignment
January 8	Introduction to course	
10	Chapter 1. *Definition and Measurement of Concepts*: Conceptual Definitions	1 – 7
12	Operational Definitions	7 – 12
15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – class does not meet	
17	Reliability and Validity	12 – 18
19	Chapter 2. *Measuring and Describing Variables*: Measuring Variables	24 – 29
22	**Quiz 1** Introduction to Describing Variables	29
24	Describing Variables	30 - 35
26	Describing Variables (cont.) **First take-home assignment is given**	35 – 41
29	Chapter 3. *Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons:* Explanations	48 - 54
31	*Framing Hypotheses* **First take-home assignment is due**	54 – 63
February 2	*Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns*	63 – 69
5	*Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns (cont.)*	63 – 69
7	**Exam 1**	
9	Chapter 4. *Research Design and the Logic of Control:* Experimental Designs	78 – 84
12	Controlled Comparisons	84 – 90
14	Additive Relationships	90 – 96
16	**Quiz 2** Chapter 5. *Making Controlled Comparisons:* Cross-Tabulation Analysis (introduction)	102 – 104
19	Cross-Tabulation Analysis (cont.) Graphing Controlled Comparisons Example of Interaction **Second Take-Home Assignment is Given**	104 – 112
21	Mean Comparison Analysis	112 – 117
23	Chapter 6. *Foundations of Statistical Inference* Population Parameters and Sample Statistics Random Sampling **Second Take-home assignment is due**	123 – 128

26	Sampling (cont.)	128 – 129
28	Variation – The Standard Deviation	130 - 136
March 2	Standard Error of a Sample Mean	136 – 141
5	Inference: Normal Distribution Student's t-Distribution (introduction)	141 - 148
7	Student's t-Distribution (cont.) Sample Proportions	149 - 151
9	**Exam 2**	
12 - 16	Spring Break	
19	Chapter 7. *Tests of Significance and Measures of Association:* Statistical Significance – Comparing two sample means	156 – 163
21	*Tests of Significance and Measures of Association:* Statistical Significance – Comparing two sample means (cont.)	156 – 163
23	Statistical Significance – Comparing two sample proportions	163 - 165
26	Chi-square Test of Significance	165 - 170
28	Chi – square (cont.)Measures of Association	171 – 177
30	Application workshop	
April 2	**Quiz 3** Chapter 8. Correlation and Linear Regression Introduction	183 – 188
4	Correlation (cont.)	
6	Bivariate Regression	188 – 194
9	Bivariate Regression (cont.) R-Square	194 – 198
11	Dummy Variable Regression	198 – 201
13	Dummy Variable Regression (cont.)	
16	**Quiz 4** Multiple regression Introduction; Multiple regression -Interaction	201 – 207
18	Multiple regression - Multicollinearity	207 – 208
20	Application workshop	
23	Review for final	
April 27	**Final Exam: 7:00 AM – 9:50 AM**	


UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
UCF SIGN IN
Search UCF
Final Exam Schedule
Registrar's Office
Spring 2018
Change Term
Class Meeting Pattern
MWF
Class Start Time
9:30 AM
Class End Time
10:20 AM (50 Mins)
Friday, April 27, 2018
7:00 AM – 9:50 AM
Home
Multiple Meeting Patterns
Contact Form