University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 | Section 4 | Spring - 2019
Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 11:30am – 12:20 pm, (3 credit hours)
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 12:45 – 1:20 pm and by appointment
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Purpose and 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 textbook, 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

Expectations for Student Performance

1. 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 however, off-topic, side conversations are not allowed. Work assignments must be completed before class.

2. Required textbooks: The two books are available as a package
The Essentials of Political Analysis – Edition 5 and An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 5th Edition
Author: Philip H. Pollock III
Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

3. 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.**

4. 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.

5. 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.

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%

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.

Campus Safety Statement
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

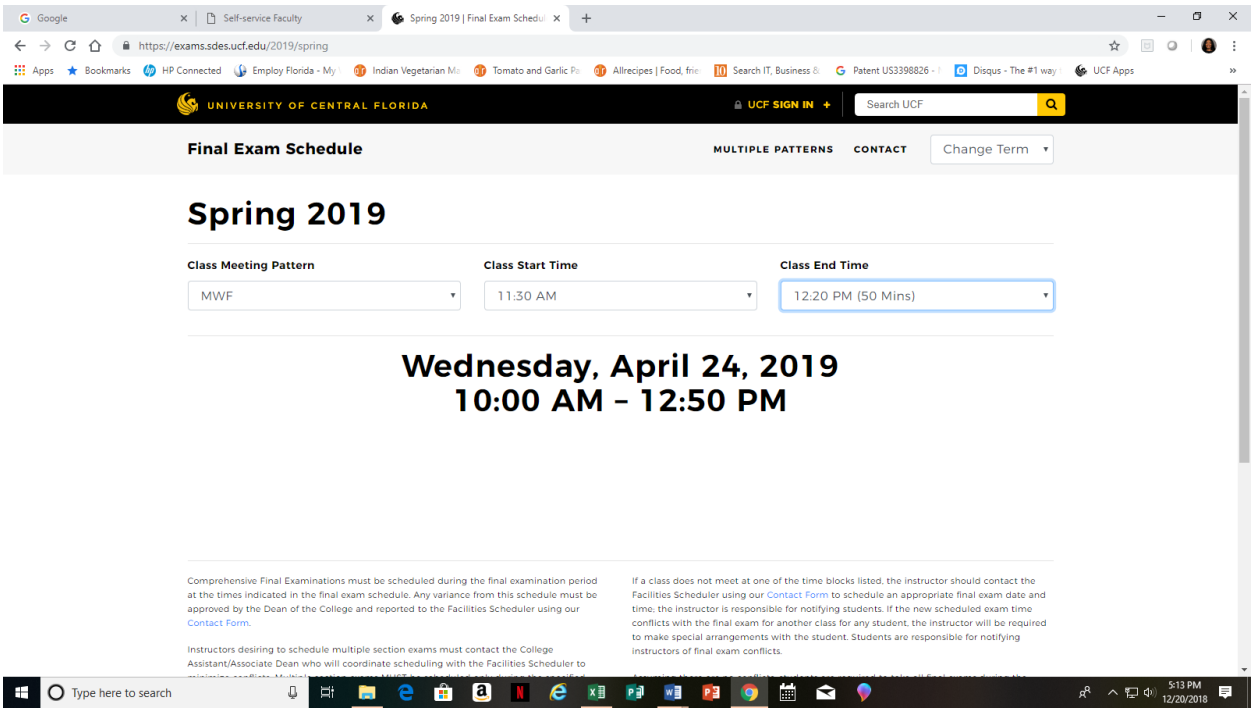
- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video.

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.

DATE	TOPIC	PAGES
7-Jan	Introduction to course	
9	Chapter 1. *Definition and Measurement of Concepts*: Conceptual Definitions	1-7
11	Operational Definitions	7-12
14	Reliability and Validity	12 - 18
16	Chapter 2. *Measuring and Describing Variables*: Measuring variables	24 - 29
18	**Quiz 1** | Introduction to Describing Variables	29
21	Martin Luther King Day - class does not meet	
23	Describing Variables	29 - 35
25	**First take-home assignment is given** | Describing variables cont.	35 - 41
28	Chapter 3. *Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons*: Explanations	48 - 54
30	**First take-home assignment is due** | Framing Hypotheses	54 - 63
1-Feb	*Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns*	63 - 69
4	*Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns (cont.)*	64 - 69
6	**Exam 1**	
8	Chapter 4. *Research Design and the Logic of Control: Experimental Designs*	78-84
11	Controlled Comparisons	84 - 90
13	Additive Relationships	90 - 96
15	**Quiz 2** |Chapter 5 *Making Controlled Comparisons:* Cross-Tabulation Analysis	102-104
18	Cross-Tabulation Analysis (cont.) Graphing Controlled Comparisons, Example of Interaction **Second take-home assignment is given**	104-112
20	Mean Comparison Analysis	112-117
22	Chapter 6. *Foundations of Statistical Inference* Population Parameters and Sample Statistics, Random Sampling | **Second take-home assignment is due**	123-128
25	Sampling (cont.)	128-129

27	Variation - The Standard Deviation	130 - 136
1-Mar	Standard Error of a Sample Mean	136-141
4	Inference: Normal Distribution | Student's t-distribution (introduction)	141 - 148
6	Student's t-distribution (cont.); Sample Proportions	149-151
8	**Exam 2**	
11 - 15	Spring Break	
18	Chapter 7 *Tests of Significance and Measures of Association:* Statistical Significance – Comparing two sample means	156-163
20	Statistical Significance – Comparing two sample proportions	163-170
22	Chi-square Test of Significance	165-170
25	Chi – square (cont.)Measures of Association	171-177
27	Application workshop	
29	**Quiz 3** Chapter 8. *Correlation and Linear Regression* Introduction	183-188
1-Apr	Correlation (cont.)	188-194
3	Bivariate Regression	194-198
5	Bivariate Regression (cont.) R-Square | Dummy Variable Regression	194-201
8	**Quiz 4** | Multiple regression - interaction	203-207
10	Multiple regression - Multicollinearity	207 - 208
12	Regression - application workshop	
15	Chapter 9. *Logistic regression*	215-226
17	Logistic regression (cont.)	215-226
19	Application workshop	
22	Last Day - Review for Final Exam	
24-Apr	**FINAL EXAM** - Begins promptly at 10 am	


https://exams.sdes.ucf.edu/2019/spring
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
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Final Exam Schedule
MULTIPLE PATTERNS
CONTACT
Change Term
Spring 2019
Class Meeting Pattern
MWF
Class Start Time
11:30 AM
Class End Time
12:20 PM (50 Mins)
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
10:00 AM – 12:50 PM
Comprehensive Final Examinations must be scheduled during the final examination period at the times indicated in the final exam schedule. Any variance from this schedule must be approved by the Dean of the College and reported to the Facilities Scheduler using our Contact Form.
Instructors desiring to schedule multiple section exams must contact the College Assistant/Associate Dean who will coordinate scheduling with the Facilities Scheduler to
If a class does not meet at one of the time blocks listed, the instructor should contact the Facilities Scheduler using our Contact Form to schedule an appropriate final exam date and time, the instructor is responsible for notifying students. If the new scheduled exam time conflicts with the final exam for another class for any student, the instructor will be required to make special arrangements with the student. Students are responsible for notifying instructors of final exam conflicts.
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12/20/2018