Syllabus
POS 3703: Scope and Methods of Political Science
Fall 2019

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Nathan Ilderton
Office	305A Howard Philips Hall
Office Hours	1:00pm-4:00pm Monday; 10:00am-1:00pm Wednesday During office hours I will be available in the course chat room. Face to face walk-ins in my office are welcome during these times. No appointment necessary during office hours.
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 W62
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2019
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 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,* 5th edition. (Sage/CQ Press).

It is critical that you purchase the correct editions. Part of your grade will be to complete exercises found in these books, and the exercises change between editions.

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 two weeks to complete the paper assignment and a week in which you must complete the final exam. Modules will open on the Monday at the beginning of the week and close on Sunday at 11:59 pm. Because the semester ends on a Wednesday, the final exam will open on Thursday, December 5th and will close on Wednesday, December 11th.

*Module 6 will contain one lecture and one assignment.

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 lectures. There will be a total of 10 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 and seventeen points each. Your two exercises with the lowest percentage grade will be dropped.

Following module six you will have two weeks 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 October 13th. The final exam is due December 11th.

There is a two hour 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	93.5 - 100
A-	89.5 - 93.4
B+	86.5 - 89.4

B	83.5 - 86.4
B-	79.5 - 83.4
C+	76.5 - 79.4
C	73.5 - 76.4
C-	69.5 - 73.4
D+	66.5 - 69.4
D	63.5 - 66.4
D-	59.5 - 63.4
F	59.4 or below

Final grades are just that, final. I will not reconsider them except in a case where I made a computational error in calculating them (I have taught for many years and have yet to miscalculate a final grade). **Please do not email or call me asking for a grade change for another reason (including requesting extra credit), it will not happen.**

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

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

http://academicintegrity.org/ (Links to an external site.)

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources come from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9 (Links to an external site.)> and have been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Misuse of Sources

A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes

Faculty have reported errors in class notes being sold by third parties, and the errors may be contributing to higher failure rates in some classes. The following is a statement appropriate for distribution to your classes or for inclusion on your syllabus:

Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

In-Class Recording Policy

Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

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.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the 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. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency. (Insert class-specific details if appropriate)

- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left). (insert class specific information if appropriate)
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere. You CAN Survive an Active Shooter (Links to an external site.)

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

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*	August 26th	September 1st
Lecture 2	Measuring Variables	Essentials, Ch. 1 and 2	Exercise 1: Companion Chapter 1, pg 14-5 Exercises 1, 2 Chapter 2, pg.30-5 Exercises 3, 5, 6	August 26th	September 8th
Lecture 3	Theories and Hypotheses	Essentials, Ch. 3, pg. 48-58	Exercise 2: Companion, Chapter 3, pg 55-7 Exercises 1, 2, 3	September 9th	September 22nd
Lecture 4	Making Comparisons	Essentials, Ch. 3, pg. 58-77	Exercise 3: Companion, Chapter 4, pg. 75-81 Exercises 1, 6, 7	September 9th	September 22nd
Lecture 5	Research Design	Essentials, Ch. 4	Exercise 4: Essentials, Chapter 4, pg 97-9 Exercises 2, 3, 5	September 23rd	October 6th
Lecture 6	Control Variables	Essentials, Ch. 4 and 5	Exercise 5: Companion, Chapter 5, pg 106-13. Exercises 1, 3, 4	September 23rd	October 6th
	Midterm Exam			**October 7th**	**October 13th**
Lecture 7	Statistical Inference	Essentials, Ch. 6	Exercise 6: Essentials, Chapter 6, pg. 153-5	October 14th	October 27th

			Exercises 1, 4, 6		
Lecture 8	Tests of Significance	Essentials, Ch 7	Exercise 7: Companion, Chapter 6, pg. 126-9 Exercises 1, 3, 4	October 14th	October 27th
Lecture 9	Measures of Association and Correlation	Essentials Ch. 7 and Ch. 8, pg. 183-8	Exercise 8: Companion, Chapter 7, pg. 142-5 Exercises 2, 3, 4	October 28th	November 10th
Lecture 10	Bivariate Regression	Essentials Ch. 8, pg. 188-201	Exercise 9: Companion, Chapter 8, pg. 163-5 Exercises 1, 3, 4	October 28th	November 10th
Lecture 11	Multiple Regression	Essentials Ch. 8, pg. 201-214	Exercise 10: Companion, Chapter 8, pg. 165 Exercise 5 Chapter 9, pg. 180-6 Exercises 1, 4	November 11th	November 24th
	Paper			**November 25th**	**December 8th**
	Exam 2			**December 5th**	**December 11th**

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.