POS3703-20Fall 0W63

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Announcements from the School of Politics, Security & International Affairs:

- **"How to Succeed in a Remote Learning Environment,"** virtual workshop, **Wed., Aug. 19th, 2-3:30 pm**
- **Fall 2020 classes** start **Aug. 24th**. Get ready now: latest schedule of SPSIA classes, do internship for credit, apply for Senior Scholars, study abroad options.
- UCF virtual teach-in: "Black Lives: Racism & the Struggle for Justice in the American Democracy," Watch now.
- **Prelaws:** be aware of covid19-related LSAT changes

Welcome to POS 3703: Scope and Methods of Political Science

Please read this syllabus carefully. It answers questions you may have about the course and will help you be successful this term.

Contact Information

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (**About Me**)
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall 102 (**Where's This?** (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/))
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Course Information

- Name: Scope & Methods of Political Science
- Course ID & Section: POS 3703-20Fall 0W63
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2020
- Web only class

Course Description

In this course you will learn the elements of 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. I've organized this course into a series of weekly modules. Each module serves as a building block for the next module so it important that you master a module's learning objectives before proceeding to the next module. Because this is a fully online class, you must be able to learn independently by reading textbook(s), watching videos, and practicing political science methods.

Students can use this webcourse to keep track of assignment due dates, access online study material, submit assignments, read course-related announcements, and keep track of their grades. Please read the syllabus carefully; you will need to pass a syllabus quiz to unlock course material.

University catalog description: The scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology. Prerequisites: POS 2041 or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives

In this course, students have the opportunity to:

- Understand the essential concepts and methods used to analyze data for political science research,
- Apply scientific concepts and principles to solve problems,

- Improve proficiency with statistical software,
- Develop professional work habits like punctuality, focus, and self-discipline,
- Work collaboratively with other students in small group discussions in a manner that demonstrates professionalism, respect for others, and academic integrity, and
- Communicate results of data analysis effectively with text and graphics.

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 and Supplemental Readings

REQUIRED: Phillip H. Pollock III and Barry C. Edwards, *The Essentials of Political Analysis, 6th Edition (*Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, An Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc., 2020). ISBN-13: 978-1506379616, ISBN-10: 1506379613. **See Amazon page (https://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Political-Analysis-Philip-Pollock/dp/1506379613/ref=sr_1_2?qid=1571932122)** .

- **BOOK BUYING ISSUES?** Don't wait until the second or third week of class to get the books required for this class. If the timing of financial aid is an issue, take advantage of **UCF's Textbook Purchase Programs (https://finaid.ucf.edu/receiving/funds-for-books/)** .
- **RECOMMENDED:** There are a number of web sites that offer useful information about statistics and computing. Students may wish to use these web sites as necessary to supplemental class material. For example, we may only briefly review some mathematical concepts. If a concept is not familiar to you or you want to study it in more detail, I would encourage you to take advantage of supplemental resources.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed in class.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the components listed below. You can find detailed instructions for all assignments in an **Assignment Instructions Module** (accessible after you complete the Start Here Module). Assignment point values are based on 1,400 total points in the course.

1. **Lab Assignments (30%)** – Each numbered module contains a lab assignment that requires you to implement political science research methods, usually with a computer program. Each lab assignment is worth 30 points. Your lowest lab assignment score will be dropped.
2. **Review Exercises (15%) -** Each numbered module contains one or two review exercises. Module review exercises are each worth 10 points. Your lowest review exercise score is dropped.
3. **Module Quizzes (30%) -** Each numbered module contains a quiz worth 30 points. Your lowest module quiz score is dropped.
4. **Small Group Discussions (15%) -** Each numbered module contains a small group discussion that gives you the opportunity to discuss lab assignments with other students in the class. They are each worth 15 points and your lowest small group discussion score is dropped.
5. **Final Exam (10%) -** After you complete all numbered modules, you take the final exam which is worth 140 points.

More information on each of these assignment groups is contained in the Assignment Instructions module.

Course Policies

Workload Expectations +

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit +

Late Work +

Grading Scale +

Grades of "Incomplete"	+
Group Work	+
Academic Honesty	+
Professionalism Policy	+
University Writing Center	+
Disability Statement	+
Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety	+
Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students	+
Religious Observances	+
Copyright	+
Third-Party Software and FERPA	+
Financial Aid Requirement	+
Required Statement Regarding COVID-19	+

Start Here Module

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Aug 24, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 1: Studying Politics Scientifically (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863524&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
	UCF Classes Begin! (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863535&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (Does not affect grade, please take ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580279)	due by 5pm
	Syllabus Quiz for Fall 2020 (Does not affect grade, please take ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580285)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 26, 2020	Thinking Scientifically Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580326)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 27, 2020	Drop/Swap Deadline (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863534&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
	Small Group Discussion: Using Excel for Data Analysis (Lab #1) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6688047)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 28, 2020	Add Deadline (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863533&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
	Lab Assignment #1 (Using Excel for Data Analysis) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685770)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 30, 2020	Module 1 Quiz: Studying Politics Scientifically (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580274)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 31, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 2: Definition and Measurement of Concepts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863523&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Sep 2, 2020	Definition and Measurement of Concepts Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580316)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 3, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Working with Companion Workbooks (Lab #2) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6688048)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 4, 2020	Lab Assignment #2 (Working with Companion Workbooks) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685771)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 6, 2020	Module 2 Quiz: Definition and Measurement of Concepts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580307)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 7, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 3: Measuring and Describing Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863522&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Sep 9, 2020	Measurement and Descriptive Statistics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580322)	due by 11:59pm
	Review Exercise: Math Refresher (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580288)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 10, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Measuring and Describing Variables (Lab #3) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590185)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 11, 2020	Lab Assignment #3 (Measuring and Describing Variables) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685772)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 13, 2020	Module 3 Quiz: Measuring and Describing Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580303)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 14, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 4: Transforming Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863529&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Sep 16, 2020	Review Exercise: Sort It Out - Level of Measurement (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6591210)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 17, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Transforming Variables (Lab #4) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590196)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 18, 2020	Lab Assignment #4: Transforming Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685773)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 20, 2020	Module 4 Quiz: Transforming Variables (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580278)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Sep 21, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 5: Proposing Explanations and Framing Hypotheses (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863528&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Sep 23, 2020	Explanations and Hypotheses: This or That? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580317)	due by 11:59pm
	"Shall I Compare Thee?": Making Comparisons Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580325)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 24, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Making Comparisons (Lab #5) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590198)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 25, 2020	Lab Assignment #5 (Making Comparisons) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685774)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	Module 5 Quiz: Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580293)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 28, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 6: Making Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863527&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Sep 30, 2020	Review Exercise: Graph Refresher (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6591216)	due by 11:59pm
	Review Exercise: Sort-It-Out - Picking Chart Types (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6688941)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 1, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns (Lab #6) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590210)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 2, 2020	Lab Assignment #6 (Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685775)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2020	Module 6 Quiz: Graphing Relationships and Describing Patterns (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580302)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 5, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 7: Research Design, Research Ethics, and Evidence of Causation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863521&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Oct 7, 2020	Mini Course Review (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580283)	due by 11:59pm
	Review Exercise: Research Design Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590330)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 8, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Random Sampling and Assignment (Lab #7) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6688051)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 9, 2020	Lab Assignment #7 (Random Assignment and Sampling) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685776)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	Module 7 Quiz: Research Design, Research Ethics, and Evidence of Causation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580291)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Oct 12, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 8: Making Controlled Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863520&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Oct 14, 2020	Controlled Comparisons Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580315)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 15, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Making Controlled Comparisons (Lab #8) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590236)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 16, 2020	Lab Assignment #8 (Making Controlled Comparisons) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685777)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2020	Module 8 Quiz: Making Controlled Comparisons (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580281)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 19, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 9: Foundations of Inference (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863526&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Oct 21, 2020	Foundations of Inference Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580318)	due by 11:59pm
	Making Inferences: True or False? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580321)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 22, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Working with Sampling Distributions (Lab #9) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590237)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 23, 2020	Lab Assignment #9 (Working with Sampling Distributions) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685778)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 25, 2020	Module 9 Quiz: Foundations of Inference (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580298)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 26, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 10: Making Inferences about Means and Proportions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863519&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Oct 28, 2020	Review Exercise: Calculating Standard Errors (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580304)	due by 11:59pm
	Review Exercise: Inferences about Means and Proportions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580290)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 29, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Hypothesis Tests with One and Two Samples (Lab #10) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590239)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 30, 2020	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863515&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
	Lab Assignment #10 (Hypothesis Tests with One and Two Samples) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685779)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2020	Module 10 Quiz: Making Statistical Inferences (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580277)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Nov 2, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 11: The Chi-Squared Test (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863518&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Nov 4, 2020	Review Exercise: Evaluating Chi-Square Test Statistics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580297)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 5, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Chi-Square Test and ANOVA (Lab #11) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590242)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 6, 2020	Lab Assignment #11 (Chi-Square Test and ANOVA) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685780)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 8, 2020	Module 11 Quiz: Tests of Significance and Measures of Association (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580300)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 9, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 12: Correlation and Bivariate Regression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863517&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Nov 11, 2020	Label Parts of Bivariate Regression Model (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580320)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 12, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Correlation and Bivariate Regression (Lab #12) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580312)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 13, 2020	Lab Assignment #12 (Correlation and Bivariate Regression) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685781)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 15, 2020	Module 12 Quiz: Correlation and Bivariate Regression (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580272)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 16, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 13: Multiple Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863525&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Nov 18, 2020	Multiple Regression Analysis Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580323)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 19, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Multiple Regression Analysis (Lab #13) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580313)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 20, 2020	Lab Assignment #13 (Multiple Regression Analysis) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685782)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 22, 2020	Module 13 Quiz: Multiple Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580295)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 23, 2020	Start Assigned Readings for Module/Week 14: Testing an Original Research Hypothesis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863516&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Wed Nov 25, 2020	Review Exercise: Regression Residuals Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590331)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 26, 2020	Small Group Discussion: Analyzing Regression Residuals (Lab #14) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580314)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Fri Nov 27, 2020	Lab Assignment #14 (Analyzing Regression Residuals) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6685783)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 29, 2020	Module 14 Quiz: Analyzing Regression Residuals (Q about Multiple Regression) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580305)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 2, 2020	Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580319)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 4, 2020	Last Day of UCF Classes (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863530&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am
Sun Dec 6, 2020	Online Final Exam (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6580294)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 9, 2020	Review Exercise: Logistic Regression Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590333)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 10, 2020	Bonus Class Discussion: Logistic Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6590154)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 11, 2020	Bonus Lab Assignment: Logistic Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6687356)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2020	Bonus Module Quiz: Logistic Regression Analysis (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1353791/assignments/6589162)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 16, 2020	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Fall 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1863531&include_contexts=course_1353791)	12am