University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 – OW65-84843 and OW67-85524 | Fall 2020
(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
E-Mail: lynne.gleiber@ucf.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays, 7-8 am and by appointment – All office meetings will be held via Zoom. Please contact me to receive a Zoom invitation.
I will respond to emails within 48 hours.

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 textbook

Title: Political Science Research Methods, 9th Edition
Authors: Janet Buttolph Johnson, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff

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 participate in all course activities and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if he or she decides not to complete it. Students who discontinue participation, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

6. Active Duty Military Students

Accommodations for active duty military students are available. Please see the instructor to make any arrangements.

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Literature Review	10%
Analysis Plan	10%
Final Examination	25%
Module activities (1% each)	15%

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.

Required statement from the University regarding COVID-19:
University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes
To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf. Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality
Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification
Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.
Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)
Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness
If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement
Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

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, because of emerging situations. Please note that if classes are suspended for any reason, students should attempt to adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

Date	Topic	pages	Module Activities
	Module 1		
25-Aug	Ch. 1 Introduction	1-15	
27		15-23	Summarize two of the cases
1-Sep	Ch. 2The Empirical Approach to Political Science	25-33	
3		33-43	Quiz
8	Ch. 3 Beginning the Research Process	49-55	
10		55-65	
15		65-70	Written assignment
	Module 2		
17	Ch. 4 The Building Blocks of Social Science Research	73-86	
22		86-96	Interactive activity
24	Ch. 5 Sampling	101-117	Interactive activity
29	**Exam 1**		
	Module 3		
1-Oct	Ch. 6 Research Design	121-132	
6	Ch. 7 Qualitative Research	135-146	Interactive activity
8	Qualitative Research – practice **Literature Review is due**		
13	Ch. 8 Making Empirical Observations: Qualitative Analysis	149-164	Quiz
15	Ch. 9 Quantitative Research Designs	169-182	
20		182-190	Interactive activity
22	Ch 10. Quantitative Methods	193-210	Interactive activity
27	**Exam 2**		
	Module 4		
29	Ch. 11 Making Sense of Data	211-236	Interactive activity
3-Nov	Ch. 12 Testing Relationships	239-264	
5	Testing Relationships - application		Quiz
10	Ch. 13 Analyzing Relationships for Categorical Data	267-282	Interactive activity
12		282-305	Interactive activity
17	Ch. 14 Regression	307-312	Interactive activity
19		312-319	Quiz
24	**Analysis plan is due**	319-324	
26	Thanksgiving Day - class does not meet		
1-Dec		324-329	
3	Last Class Day - Review for Final		