University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 | Section 3 | Spring 2020
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 11:30am 12:20pm, (3 credit hours)
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday; 9-9:20 am and by appointment
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 102

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

Title: The Essentials of Political Analysis - Edition: 6

Author: Philip H Pollock III and Barry Edwards

Publisher: Sage | C.Q. Press

Title: An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis, 6th Edition Package - Edition: 5

Author: Philip H Pollock III and Barry Edwards

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.

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%
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.

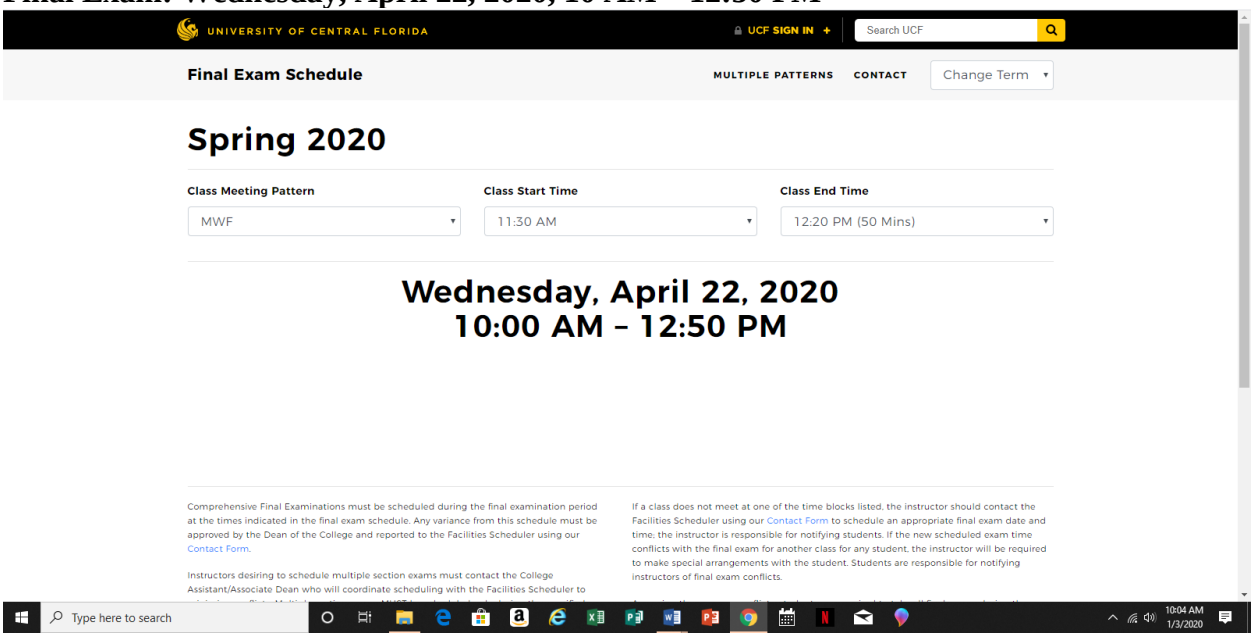
Campus Safety Statement
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- 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	Topics	Pages
January 6	Introduction to the course	
8	Chapter 1: The Definition and Measurement of Concepts.	1-24
10		24-26
13	Chapter 2: Measuring and Describing Variables	34-49
15	Chapter 2 (cont.)	49-64
17	**Quiz 1** Chapter 3: Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons **First take-home assignment given**	72-74
20	**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – class does not meet**	
22	Chapter 3:	82-97
24	Chapter 4: Research Design	105-120
27	Chapter 4	120-126
29	**Exam 1**	
31	Films: Milgram and Zimbardo experiments	
February 3	Discussion: Milgram and Zimbardo experiments	
5	Chapter 5: Making Controlled Comparisons	134-148
7		148-160
10	**Quiz 2** Chapter 6: Foundations of Statistical Inference (Population parameters & Sample statistics; Random sampling; Standard Error of a Sample Mean)	167-184
12	**Second take-home assignment given**	184-194
14	Analysis workshop - t-test	
17	**Second take-home assignment due**	
19	Chapter 7: Tests of Significance and Measures of Association	199-215
21	Analysis workshop - Chi-Square	215-232
24	**Exam 2**	

26	Chapter 8: Correlation and Linear Regression (correlation)	239-244
28	Analysis workshop - correlation	
March 2	Library instruction	
4	Bivariate regression	244-257
6	**Quiz 3**	
9-13	Multiple regression	257 - 260
16	Multiple regression - dummy variables	260-263
18	Multiple regression - interaction effects	263-267
20	Analysis workshop - multiple regression	
23	Multicollinearity, parsimony, and missing data	267-271
25	Analysis workshop - multiple regression	
27	Analysis workshop - data sourcing	
30	Chapter 9: Logistic Regression	279-291
April 1	**Quiz 4**	
3	Logistic Regression (cont.)	
6	Analysis workshop - Logistic Regression	
8	Maximum Liklihood Estimation	291-297
10	Analysis workshop	
13	Logistic Regression with Multiple Independent Variables	297-304
15	Analysis workshop	
17	Analysis workshop	
20	Last day	

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 10 AM – 12:50 PM