University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS 3703 – OW65 | Spring 2021
(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 exercises using SPSS and Microsoft Excel will be given.

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

Work assignments must be completed one time.

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 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. Graded work connected to modules will be given.

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**.**

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	20%
Module activities	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.

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.

Module 1: Building Blocks
Week 1 - Jan. 11-15 Understanding data
Week 2 - Jan. 18-22 Research design
Week 3 - Jan 25-29 Qualitative research
Week 4 - Feb. 1-5 Exam 1 and plan for literature review is due (Monday, Feb. 1)
Module 2: Quantitative Data
Week 5 - Feb. 8-12 Quantitative Research Design | Analysis plan is due (Friday, Feb. 12)
Week 6 - Feb. 15-19 Quantitative Methods
Week 7 - Feb. 22-26 Making Sense of Data
Week 8 - Mar. 1-5 Testing Relationships
Week 9 - Mar. 8-12 Categorical Data and Exam 2
Module 3: Data Analysis
Week 10 - Mar. 15-19 Cross tab and Correlation |Literature review is due (Friday, Mar.19)
Week 11 - Mar. 22-26 Bivariate regression
Week 12 - Mar. 29 - Apr. 2 Multiple regression
Week 13 - Apr. 5-9 Data Analysis Practice
Week 14 - Apr. 12-16 Spring Break
Week 15 - Apr. 19- 23 Data Analysis Round up
Week 16 - April 26 Last day of semester
Final Exam: April 28-29