POS 3703- Section 003
Scope and Methods of Political Science
Fall 2023
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30- 11:20 PM
310 Howard Phillips Hall

Instructor: Nathan Ilderton
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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.

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 Reading:
There are two books required for this class. Each is available at the University Bookstore and through the usual off campus and internet outlets.

- Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten, *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 3rd edition, (Cambridge University Press).
- Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten, *An SPSS Companion for the Third Edition of the Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, (Cambridge University Press).

If you purchase the textbooks online please insure that you are purchasing the correct editions of the required texts. This course will adhere to the listed editions; students who purchased the wrong editions are responsible for acquiring any new or changed material.

Assignments, Exams and Grading:
Students will be graded on the basis of workbook exercises, a term paper, and two exams. Final grades will be calculated using the following formula:

Workbook Assignments: 20%
Paper: 20%
First Exam: 30%
Second Exam: 30%

Workbook Assignments
Workbook assignments will be drawn from the *SPSS Companion* book. These assignments will be discussed in class on Fridays and are due by 5:00pm the following Friday unless otherwise noted in the course calendar. You will need SPSS and the data from *SPSS Companion* website to complete the assignments. SPSS is available on campus lab computers and remotely through UCF Apps. I will utilize webcourses to facilitate submission of workbook assignments. There will be a total of nine assignments from the workbook. I will drop your two lowest grades at the end of the semester.

Paper
The course paper will be an analysis of an empirical article from an academic journal in the field of political science. The paper is required to be approximately 1500 words and must contain proper citations of all your sources. Full details on the paper assignment along with links to suggested articles will be posted on webcourses. You may select an article from the list or one you find on your own. Anyone who chooses an article from outside the suggested list must have it approved by the instructor no later than October 13th. The paper must be uploaded as a working Word document or pdf by 5pm on Friday, December 1st.

Exams
Exams will cover material from their section of the reading and lecture calendar. The format of exams will be multiple choice, identification, and problem solving. Example problems will be shown in class.

The grading scale for final grades is as follows:

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. Please do not email or call me asking for a grade change for another reason, it will not happen.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at lectures is recommended, but not required. I will not be taking roll. However, you are reminded that you are responsible for lecture material on exams. Further, there is no substitute for attending class and engaging in the course materials for full comprehension. In the past, the students who did best in the course were the ones who regularly attended class sessions.

Makeup Work:
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 miss a scheduled exam please inform me prior to the exam period. If you cannot inform me ahead of time, please inform me within one business day of the scheduled exam period that you need to make up the exam either via phone or email. Date and time of makeup exams will be determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. I reserve the right to change the format and questions of makeup exams at my discretion.

If you miss an assignment without a documented university accepted excuse, I will accept assignments with penalty. These penalties begin at 10% per business day that the assignment is late. I encourage you to contact me as quickly as possible if you miss an assignment to make arrangements for late submission.

Open Lab Hours
The room we are in hosts weekly open lab hours. I will post the schedule on webcourses and make an in class announcement as soon as this semester's schedule becomes available. These hours are excellent opportunities to complete assignments.

Student Engagement and Financial Aid
All faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the syllabus quiz in the quizzes tab of the webcourses' page 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.

Webcourses
A webcourse section has been created for this class. This space will be used to post the syllabus, lecture notes, grades, and important class notices.

Class Topics and Reading Assignments:
Students are expected to complete the assigned reading by the beginning of each week. Please note that I reserve the right to change the lecture and readings schedule as necessary to adequately cover all topics. I also reserve the right to add or subtract readings from the course. Any changes to the schedule or assigned readings will be

announced in class. Note: Assignments are due Friday of the week listed unless otherwise noted.

Week 1: August 21st-25th
Topics: Introduction, The Scientific Study of Politics
Readings: Fundamentals, Chapter 1

Week 2: August 28th- September 1st
Topics: Theory Building
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 2
SPSS Workbook Ch. 1, 2

No Class: Labor Day: Monday, September 4th

Week 3: September 6th-8th
Topics: Causal Relationships
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 3
SPSS Workbook Chapter 3
Assignment 1: Workbook Ch 2 Exercises, pg. 21-2.

Week 4: September 11th-15th
Topics: Research Design
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 4
SPSS Workbook Ch. 4
Assignment 2: Workbook Ch 3 Exercises, pg. 23-5

Week 5: September 18th-22nd
Topics: Research Design and Measurement
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 5
SPSS Workbook Ch. 5
Assignment 3: Workbook Ch. 4, Exercises, pg. 26-28

Week 6: September 25th-29th
Topics: Measurement and Review
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 5

Exam 1: Friday, September 29th

Week 7: October 2nd -6th
Topics: Descriptive Statistics
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 6
SPSS Workbook Ch. 6
Assignment 4: Workbook Ch. 5, Exercises, pg. 29-31

Week 8: October 9th-13th
Topics: Statistical Inference
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 7
SPSS Workbook Ch. 7
Assignment 5: Workbook Ch. 6, Exercises, pg. 39

Week 9: October 16th-20th
Topics: Statistical Inference
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 7
SPSS Workbook Ch 7

Week 10: October 23rd-27th
Topics: Bivariate Hypothesis Testing
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 8
SPSS Workbook Ch. 8
Assignment 6: Workbook Ch. 7, Exercises, pg. 45

Week 11: October 30th-November 3rd
Topics: Bivariate Hypothesis Testing
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 8
SPSS Workbook Ch. 8

Week 12: November 6th-10th
Topics: Regression
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 9
SPSS Workbook Ch. 9
Assignment 7: Workbook Ch. 8, Exercises, pg. 54

No Class: Veteran's Day: Friday, November 10th

Week 13: November 13th-17th
Topics: Regression
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 9 and 10
SPSS Workbook Ch. 9 and 10

Week 14: November 20th
Topics: Paper Reading Day
Optional Class: Presenting and Publishing Original Research
Assignment 8: Workbook Ch. 9, Exercises, pg 58 (Due Monday)

No Class November 22nd or 24th, Thanksgiving

Week 15: November 27th-December 1st
Topics: Regression and Review
Readings: Fundamentals Ch. 11
SPSS Workbook Ch. 11
Assignment 9: Workbook Ch. 10, Exercises, pg. 63

Paper Due in Webcourses by 5:00pm on Friday, December 1st
Exam 2: During Final Exam Period, Monday, December 4th, 10:00am-12:50pm

UCF Creed
Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.
Integrity
I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
Scholarship
I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
Community
I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
Creativity
I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
Excellence
I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Academic Integrity
Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.

5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/ (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.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.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Events
Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf

Religious Observances
Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf

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
Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is

defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording classroom activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule.

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.

Title IX Policy

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.