University of Central Florida
Scope and Methods of Political Science
POS3703
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 310
Section 0003 Tuesday and Thursday; 10:30 – 11:50 AM
Section 0002 Tuesday and Thursday; 12 – 1:20 PM
School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs
Spring 2024
3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
Office hours: by appointment
Main office location: HPH 302
E-Mail: lynne.gleiber@ucf.edu 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

Statement on Culture of Inclusion

The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to be respectful in classrooms, work environments, and at campus events.

Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX

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 Home - UCF Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares • UCF

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity - Home (ucf.edu) and askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Student Accessibility Services • UCF
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events
- University Compliance, Ethics, and Risk (ucf.edu) & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office (ucf.edu)

Expectations for Student Performance

Course Requirements

Work assignments must be completed on time.

Required textbook

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

Examinations and Grading

Three exams will be given: two during the semester and one cumulative final exam. Questions will be based on information covered in the textbooks as well as material presented during class lectures, presentations, and discussions. Everyone is to begin exams at the time posted. For example, if an exam is given from 10 – 11am all students are to be present and begin at 10am. 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 within 24 hours of the missed exam to discuss the possibility of being given a make-up exam**.** Make-up exams will be based on same information as the original exams but the format may be different.

The table shows the range for each letter grade and uses a plus/minus system that is used for the course.

Letter Grade and points

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%

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.

Attendance and Withdrawal

Students are expected to participate in all course activities and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if they decide not to complete it. Students who discontinue participation, and do not withdraw will fail the course. Absences are excused with medical verification of illness from a physician or licensed care provider.

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%

Examination 2	20%
Module Assignments and attendance	40%
Final Examination	20%

Religious Observance: 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

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. 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.

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

UCF Statement on Student Use of Technology
Full Statement is here: UCF Online Technology Requirements | UCF Online Degrees
The University of Central Florida expects all students to have ready access to a personal computer and software appropriate to his or her field of study. Students can meet this expectation by purchasing or leasing a computer, sharing a computer with family or roommates, or using a UCF student computer lab. All UCF students should expect to use a personal computer in many university activities, including coursework, accessing library information, registering for classes, and communicating with instructors and fellow students.

In addition, many UCF courses require access to the internet. UCF has developed one of the nation's most advanced campus technology environments, and all UCF students are provided with free email accounts and internet access. Students wishing to acquire a personal computer are strongly advised to consider a notebook computer with a wireless networking card.

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.

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.

Copyright
This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

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.

Course Plan

Module 1: Foundations

Jan 9 & 11	**Week 1**	Understanding Data
Jan 16 & 18	**Week 2**	Empirical Approach to Research
Jan 23 & 25	**Week 3**	Beginning the Research Process
Jan 30 & Feb 1	**Week 4**	Tuesday - Exam 1/ Thursday being foundations of working with data
Module 2: Qualitative and Quantitative Data and Research process		
Feb 6 & 7	**Week 5**	Building Blocks
Feb 13 & 15	**Week 6**	Sampling
Feb 20 & 22	**Week 7**	Research Design
Feb 27 & 29	**Week 8**	Qualitative Research
Mar 5 & 7	**Week 9**	Quantitative Research Design
Module 3: Media Influence, Social Determinants, and Social Movements		
Mar 12 & 14	**Week 10**	Quantitative Research Design
Mar 19 & 21	**Week 11**	SPRING BREAK
Mar 26 & 28	**Week 12**	Making sense of data and testing relationships

April 2 & 4	**Week 13**	Data analysis
April 9 & 11	**Week 14**	Data analysis
April 16 & 18	**Week 15**	Data analysis
22-Apr	**Week 16**	Classes end on Monday - we do not meet this week.
Final Exam Section 3: Tuesday, April 30, 10am – 12:50pm Final Exam Section 2: Thursday, April 25, 10am – 12:50pm		