# POS 3703 - Scope and Methods of Political Science

**Section:** 0001

*College of Sciences*

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

## Course Information

**Term:** Fall 2024
**Class Meeting Days:** TR
**Class Meeting Time:** 13:30 - 14:50
**Class Meeting Location:** HPH O310
**Modality:** P
**Credit Hours:** 3.00

## Instructor Information

Dr. Jonathan Knuckey
**Office Location:** HPH 302L
**Office Hours:**

**Tuesday: 10am-11.30am**

**Thursday: 10am-11.30am**

I encourage you to use my office hours to discuss course material questions, politics in general, your future educational and career plans.... and even the English Premier League and the MLS!

If my office hours don't fit your schedule just let me know a day/time when you can meet. I can also meet via Zoom. Use this link for any time during the semester you wish to chat with me via Zoom: **https://ucf.zoom.us/j/6720872288**

**Email:** Use the Inbox in Canvas to message me

## Course Description

POS 3703 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Scope and Methods of Political Science: PR: POS 2041 or C.I. The scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology. Fall, Spring.

Welcome to the real world of political science research!

The majority of political scientists have adopted a method for studying political questions that differs from the approach taken by journalists, historians, and political commentators. They have adopted the **scientific method**, to systematically test explanations of political phenomena. Much of the research in political science uses empirical data to test hypotheses, and statistical tests to determine which explanations are best supported by the data.

Although you will be introduced to how political scientists use data and statistics in their research, this course is **not** a statistics course and you will not be expected to learn and memorize scary looking mathematical formulas!  Indeed, we use statistics regularly in our lives without ever fearing statistics, as any sports fan would attest! It's just the same for political scientists, except rather than using statistics to help describe the

performance of a football or baseball team we are using statistics to better help us describe and explain politics.

This course will certainly help you understand the reading materials in many upper-level classes and equip you with the skills to research topics for term papers, to participate in the internship program or undertake your own independent research, for example an Honors Undergraduate Thesis

Thus, by the time you complete this course you will have developed critical thinking and analytic skills that you can also apply in a variety of career settings, and which are prized by many employers in both the public and private sectors in addition to law school and graduate school.

So, I know this will seem like an entirely different kind of political science course than that you are used to. This is because we are not focused on the content knowledge of subfield in political science, but are more interested in understanding the **approaches and methods** that most political scientists use to understand and build knowledge about questions and puzzles about politics that interest them. However, I hope you will find that learning how to "do" political science yourself, and how to become a **producer** --- not just a consumer -- of research is both empowering and fun!

## Student Learning Outcomes

**1. Understanding the Application of the Scientific Method in Political Science:** Students will be able to explain how the scientific method is applied to the study of political phenomena, differentiating it from the approaches used by journalists, historians, and political commentators.

**2. Designing Social Science Research:** Students will develop the ability to design social science research, including formulating research questions, hypotheses, and selecting appropriate research methods.

**3. Analyzing Empirical Data:** Students will acquire skills in analyzing empirical data, using statistical tools to test hypotheses and draw conclusions about political phenomena.

**4. Interpreting Research Findings:** Students will learn to interpret and critically evaluate research findings, understanding how data presentations support or refute political explanations.

**5. Developing Critical Thinking and Analytic Skills:** Students will enhance their critical thinking and analytic skills, applying them to various career settings and preparing for advanced studies or research projects such as an Honors Undergraduate Thesis.

## About me

I joined UCF in 1999. I received my BA in Political Theory and Institutions from the **University of Liverpool,** my MA in U.S. History and Politics from the **University of Keele** and my Ph.D. in Political Science from the **University of New Orleans**.

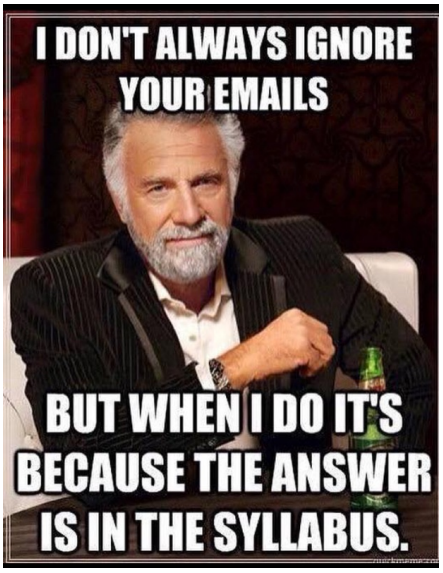
My main areas of research and teaching are southern politics, voting behavior, campaigns and elections, political parties, race and politics, gender and politics and comparative politics.

Outside of of my day job I am a huge football (soccer!) fan and an avid supporter of **Liverpool** and, of course, **Orlando City F.C**.

## How to Contact Me

You can contact me via email (use the Inbox in Canvas to message me). I should usually get back to you within 24 hours. If I have not done so, don't hesitate to follow up

with me.




Ok...I won't ever ignore your message, however do please see if a general question you might have about our course is answered in the syllabus before contacting me.

Do allow adequate time for a reply to a question about course material.  If you send a question a few hours before an assignment is due I may not see it in time to provide an adequate answer.

***Please don't use the comments box on assignments to message me. I receive no notification of messages sent here. So always use the email in Canvas if you wish to follow up on any assignment.***

A note on etiquette: You are what you email, which means your instructors will often shape their opinion of you according to the quality of the email messages you are sending. To that end, be sure to please keep the tone of your emails professional, sign your emails with your name and include an appropriate salutation (Hint: you can't go wrong with "Dear Dr. Knuckey").

## Start of Semester Meetings

I would like to meet with each of you for a brief chat during the first two weeks of the semester.

Please make your appointment by going to Calendar in Webcourses, select our course (POS 3703) and then click on "Find Appointments," where you will be able to reserve a day/time. If none of those time slots fit your schedule we can arrange a different day/time.

These meetings can be either in my office (Phillips Hall 302L) or via Zoom if you prefer. Use the Zoom link under Instructor Information (see above) for all Zoom meetings.

Hopefully these meetings will give you a chance to ask me any questions you may have about the course. Likewise it will help me put names to faces.

## Class Attendance

This is fairly straightforward. Arrive on time -- our class begins at 1.30pm -- and stay for the duration of the class, which ends at 2.50am.

I will pass the attendance roll around a few minutes after our class start time. On the very rare occasion you are late to class, please enter the classroom as quietly and with as minimal disruption as possible,

More so than any other class I teach, attending class and taking good notes in Scope & Methods of Political Science is imperative. Indeed, you will see the material build from class to class and from week to week.

As our classes are in a computer lab we will have in-class assignments throughout the semester (see below the section in the syllabus on assignments). Obviously not attending class means you will not be able to complete and receive credit for these assignments. Also keep in mind that arriving late for a class may mean you miss an in-class assignment that might be given near the beginning of the class session.

## Course Materials and Resources

**Introduction to Political Science Research Methods, 1st edition,**
**Authors:** Josh Franco, et al.

**Notes:** This is a free open access textbook. I also have linked to individual chapters in the course schedule below
**Online Access:** https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1461544/files?preview=107739141&sort=created_at&order=desc

## SPSS

After the midterm exam, the course will introduce you to SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Scientists), a widely used program that political scientists use to analyze data.

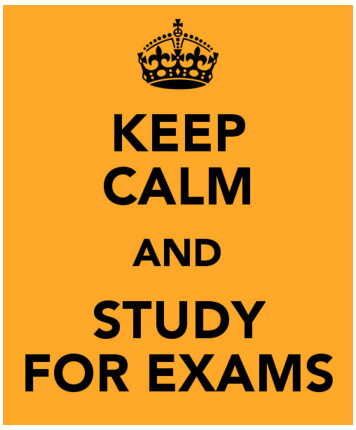
Using a series of data sets, which are among the best data available to professional researchers, you will learn the types of data analytic skills that are common-place in contemporary political science research. Even after our class is over. You might even want to use SPSS to further analyze these data files and conduct your own research in an independent study or Honors Undergraduate Thesis.

I'll got into more depth about SPSS after the midterm exam. However, for now just be aware that after the midterm exam you will need access to SPSS, but you **don't** need to by anything!  In addition to on-campus access, such as the computer lab we meet in for classes, the Classroom Building Lab and Tech Commons lab have SPSS installed. UCF also now has off-site access to SPSS available (via the UCF Apps site). I'll have detailed instructions on how to access SPSS this way later in the semester.

I will also supply you with the "SPSS How To Guide,"  which is a free supplement I've compiled for our class.  It will go over every procedure we cover in class when we learn how to use SPSS.

## Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

### Exams




There will be two exams given during the semester scheduled as follows:

**Midterm exam, Tuesday, October 1st.**

The midterm exam will be taken in our classroom during our regular class time, so you will have 80 minutes to complete it.

The exam will consist of 15 multiple choice questions, 15 true/false questions and six short-response questions.

The exam will cover everything we have talked about in class up to that point as well as the assigned readings.

More information can be found on the Midterm Exam study guide, which I will make available to you around two weeks before the exam.

The exam is closed book, however, I will permit you to bring a single 5 x 8 note card with whatever information you think might be useful.

**Final Exam, Tuesday, December 3rd 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM (*note the start time is 30 minutes earlier than our usual class start time)***

The final exam will be taken in our classroom during the final exam period, and you will have 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete it.

The exam will focus on the course material after the midterm exam, and consist of questions where you analyze and interpret data, although you will **not** actually be using SPSS for the exam.

More information can be found on the Final Exam study guide, which I will make available to you around two weeks before the exam.

The exam is closed book, however, I will permit you to bring a single 5 x 8 note card with whatever information you think might be useful.

## Assignments

There will be three types of assignment for our course.

- In-class assignments
- SPSS data analysis homework assignments
- Overall research process assignment

Assignments can be accessed from the "Modules" tab on the navigation bar on the left in Canvas. At the beginning of the semester you won't see every assignment. They will appear as we move to the relevant topic.

### *In-class Assignments*

The purpose of these brief in-class assignments is to give help you learn the material by giving you hand-on practice by applying the material we learn. There will usually be one in-class assignment -- and sometimes more -- in each class period.

These assignments **do not** require any prior preparation -- they will simply cover concepts and ideas that we cover in that day's class. Moreover, we will talk about each assignment in-class so you will get real-time feedback.

### *SPSS exercises*

As noted above, in the second half of the course, i.e., after the midterm exam you will be introduced to how we analyze and interpret data in political science using SPSS.

SPSS homework assignments will give you further practice in learning to use SPSS and analyzing and interpreting data in political science.

These assignments will always be due on a Sunday (midnight deadline). See the schedule below for specific due dates.

### *Overall research process assignment*

Don't worry -- I'm not going to hit you with a long research paper at the end of the semester!

Instead, the purpose of this assignment is to help you put back together the various stages of the research process that we have covered during the semester.

You will choose from a list of research topics I will provide and then go about the different stages of the research process, including testing your own hypotheses using SPSS to analyze data from an original data set.

Actually I hope this assignment is fun to do! Potentially it might form the basis of an original research project you might want to further develop in an independent study or an **Honors Undergraduate Thesis (HUT).** In fact I have recently chaired several HUTs that started their life as this assignment.

You will note from the course schedule -- see below -- that I will devote a class session to going over this assignment, and you will have ample time in the last week of our course to work on it in class. I will be more than happy to provide input, assistance and suggestions, as you work through it.

***The assignment will be due on Tuesday, November 26th (midnight).***

## Grading Procedure

My philosophy of grading is decidedly against what is generally known as "competitive grading" or "grading on the curve." You are not competing against fellow students for grades in this class. You are competing against yourself at all times, hopefully pushing yourself to excel against my objective standards of what students should reasonably get out of this class.

Average mastery of those standards is the baseline for earning an "average" grade of C. Do above-average work, you earn a B. Do excellent work, you earn an A…. and so on. In any case, please understand that the points you earn toward a final grade will not be jerked around up or down to fit some predetermined grade curve.

Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

- *In-class assignments: 15%*
- *SPSS data analysis homework exercises: 20%*
- *Overall research process assignment: 15%*
- *Midterm exam: 20%*
- *Final exam: 30%*

***These are the only criteria for which a grade can earned for our class.***

***There is no extra credit offered.***

## Grading Scale

Your overall course grade earned corresponds to the following grade boundaries:

A, 90%+

B+, 87-89.9%

B, 80-86.9%

C+, 77-79.9%

C, 70-76.9%

D, 60-69.9%

F, 59% and below.

You will be able to access your grades in Canvas. Please make sure that grades entered here are correct. While every effort is made to ensure grades are correct, from time-to-time errors can occur (incorrectly add/subtract, miss points, and even fail to understand what a student wrote).

A time limit of **1 week** is imposed requests to review a grade after the grade has posted for a completed piece or work. This is sufficient time to identify any errors. After that prior grades will not be reviewed. This is to bring the course grade to completion and to minimize "end of semester" opportunism.

I sometimes get requests to "bump" overall grades up. Only when grades fall **exactly** on the borderline of letter grades (89.9%, 86.9%, 79.9%, 76.9%, 69.9%) will a grade be eligible for the next letter grade. This is not automatic and I'll take the overall performance of a student throughout the semester into account when deciding whether to round up.

All work in this course will be graded by me, not a Graduate Teaching Assistant. If you have any questions about grades please don't hesitate to touch base with me directly.

Grade grievance policies are outlined under the UCF Golden Rule.

## Policies for Course Grade

## Make-up Exams

A make-up exam may be given for the following reasons:

- Students representing the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes)
- Attending a professional conference
- Attending a job interview
- Personal illness or emergency (you can inform me of this using discreet language without going into specifics)
- Unforeseen childcare or transportation issues
- Serious illness or death within the *immediate* family

Generally, notification should be given to me at least 24 hours before the exam, or as soon as possible if it is not possible to communicate that to me. Usually, original and verifiable documentation will be requested and required to be eligible to make-up an exam.

*Make-up exams cannot be given prior to the date and time of the regularly scheduled exam.*

Vacations and other non-emergency reasons for being out of town for missing an exam are **not** eligible reasons for a make-up exam being granted.

*Please note that the content and any make-up exam may be different from that of the regularly scheduled exam.*

## In-Class Assignments

As noted above, these are completed during our class time, and so are not subject to a make-up policy as we will go over and discuss answers in class.

If you have a legitimate and documented reason for missing class (similar to the list above for make-up exams), which you have notified me of at least 24 hours prior to start of class then you will be excused from an in-class assignment.  Note, however, that in-

class assignments are designed to help you learn and reinforce course material, so you may be at a disadvantage on exams if you miss them.

## SPSS Assignments "After Hours" Policy

*Please note the following policy for late submission of SPSS assignments*

- Work submitted ***after the midnight deadline up to 9.00am the following day*** is considered late, but will fall in the automatic grace period for submission of work and still receive full credit.
- Work submitted ***after 9.00am the following day after a deadline up to midnight*** is considered late but can still be submitted but will only receive half credit.
- *No late work will be accepted for credit after this.*

Even with an after hours submission policy, some students occasionally still want longer to complete an assignment. **Such extensions will not be granted unless they genuinely are unexpected or extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the students**. Basically, it is an extremely high bar!

Here are some *unacceptable* excuses for late-work, and it is by no means an exhaustive list:

- *"My computer is broken...."*
- *"My computer was stolen...."*
- *"My computer magically deleted my homework from the hard drive. I do not understand it myself...."*
- *"I did the assignment but Canvas somehow deleted all the answers..."*
- *"The internet is broken...."*
- *"I forgot to attach the assignment...."*
- *"I could not find the assignment...."*
- *"I did the quiz but forgot to submit it..."*
- *"I was on holiday..."*
- *"It was my birthday so I thought you would give me an extension..."*
- *"I didn't understand the assignment..."*
- *"I forgot what time zone I lived in..."*

The above are all **actual excuses** I have received! Many, as you can see, are computer-related, which are the “dog ate my homework” excuses of the technology age and will not fly! It's your responsibility to plan ahead and avoid procrastination.

## Incomplete Grades

Grades of “Incomplete” are only given when the student has completed the vast majority of work for the semester and emergency circumstances prevent submission of assignments in the final weeks of class.

Since degrees will not be certified with an incomplete on the degree audit, "I" grades will be changed to "F" if not resolved by the stipulated deadlines. "I" grades are considered "unsatisfactory" grades until resolved for program of study purposes.

Please also note that incomplete grades are not counted as completed courses or recognized as such by Financial Aid. Therefore, students on financial assistance must check with the Financial Aid office to see if the receipt of an incomplete grade will affect their financial award.

## Course Accessibility

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) (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.

## Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. 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 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*. 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.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Group Chats

### Use of AI

Any work submitted for our class is assumed to involve your own effort, words, thoughts, ideas and reflections. Therefore, content produced or inspired by generative AI is not permitted for any assignment in this course.

It become obvious very quickly when AI has been used, and such use will be treated as plagiarism and subject to the same sanctions as noted above under "Academic Integrity."

Developing strong competencies in writing, critical and analytical thinking will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Relying on AI to do the work for us robs us all of the opportunity to learn from our experiences and from each other, to play with our creative freedoms, to problem-solve, and to contribute our ideas in authentic ways. In a nutshell, college is a place for learning. AI simply cannot do that learning for us.

### Group Chats

Group chats -- via GroupMe, Whats App, etc -- are increasingly common and can be used positively for collaboration and connection with your peers. That is good. However, they can also be used for nefarious purposes such as sharing answers and other forms of cheating.

Recently I've had to unfortunately deal with instances where students are reporting other students for sharing information and answers via the class group chat. **Any students on a group chat where there are violations of academic integrity will all be included in any disciplinary action that results from content shared on the chat.**

How can this be avoided, you ask? Just do you own work, ask me if you want help or clarification on any of the material, and don’t cut corners. It's pretty easy to avoid.

## 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 at Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

## 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.

## Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty of staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

## Campus Safety

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 Safety
- 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 AED Locations.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to RAVE Mobile Safety and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- 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 from the UCF Police Department, You CAN Survive an Active Shooter.

### Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

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 RAVE Mobile Security and logging in. On the "My Account"

tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.

- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructor outside of class.

## Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity 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.

## Disclaimer

I reserve the right to change, add or modify any part of the syllabus. Of course, advance notice will be given to students of any such changes.

## Class Schedule

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|---|---|---|
| **Tuesday August 20th** | Course Introduction -- Why is Scope & Methods of Political Science an Important class to Take? | Franco et al., **"Introduction"** *(you can skip section 1.4* |

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| | | *and 1.5 -- although you might find these relevant it you plan to do independent research such as Honors Undergraduate Thesis)* |
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| **Thursday, August 22nd** | The Scientific Method & the Study of Politics | Franco et al., **"The History and Development of Empirical Political Science** |
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| **Tuesday, August 27th** | The Stages of the Research Process in Political Science; What is Empirical Political Science? | Franco et al., **"The Scientific Method"** |
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| **Thursday, August 29th** | *No class as campus closing for a "football" game. Get caught up with course readings, or start reading ahead.* | |
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| **Tuesday, September 3rd** | Concepts & Conceptual Definitions in Political Science Research | Franco et al., **"Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement" (read section 5.1)** |
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| **Thursday, September 5th** | Operational Definitions, Validity & Reliability of Measures in Political Science Research | Franco et al., **"Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement" (read sections 5.2)** |
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| **Tuesday, September 10th** | Levels of Measurement | Franco et al., **"Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement" (read sections 5.3)** |
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| **Thursday, September 12th** | Approaches to Data Collection in Political Science | Franco et al., **"Elements of Research Design"** |
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| **Tuesday, September 17th** | Units of Analysis & Types of Variables in Political Science Research | Franco et al., **"Theories, Hypotheses,** |

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| | | **Variables & Units" (sections 4.4 & section 4.5)** |
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| **Tuesday, September 19th** | Types of Variables, Causation & Explanation in Political Science Research | Franco, et al. **"Theories, Hypotheses, Variables & Units." (read sections 4.1 & 4.6)** |
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| **Tuesday, September 24th** | Hypotheses & Hypothesis Testing | Franco et al. **"Theories, Hypotheses, Variables & Units of Analysis" (read sections 4.2 & 4.3)** |
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| **Thursday, September 26th** | Hypotheses & Hypothesis Testing/Review for Midterm Exam | |
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| **Tuesday, October 1st** | **Midterm Exam**<br><br>The midterm exam will be taken during our regular class time in the computer lab where we hold class. | |

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| **Thursday, October 3rd** | An Introduction to Data Analysis Using SPSS | |
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| **Tuesday, October 8th** | Descriptive Statistics: Frequency Tables, Measures of Central Tendency | |
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| **Thursday, October 10th** | Descriptive Statistics: Measures of Variation, Standardized Scores | |
| ***Homework due, Sunday, October 13th: SPSS exercise - Descriptive Statistics*** | | |
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| **Tuesday, October 15th** | Bivariate Analysis: A Review of Hypothesis Writing; Cross-tabulations | |
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| **Thursday, October 17th** | Bivariate Analysis: Mean Analysis Box-Plots | |
| ***Homework due, Sunday, October 20th: SPSS exercise -- Bivariate Analysis*** | | |
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| **Tuesday, October 22nd** | Statistical Significance & Measures of Association | |
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| **Thursday, October 24th** | Statistical Significance & Measures of Association | |
| ***Homework due, Sunday, October 27th: SPSS exercise -- Statistical Significance & Measures of Association*** | | |

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| **Tuesday, October 29th** | Controlling for a Third Variable | |
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| **Thursday, October 31st** | Correlation Coefficients & Scatterplots | |
| ***Homework due, Sunday, November 3rd: SPSS exercise -- Controlling for a Third Variable*** | | |
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| **Tuesday, November 5th** | Regression & Multiple Regression Analysis | |
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| **Thursday, November 7th** | No class | |
| ***Homework due, Sunday, November 10th: SPSS exercise -- Correlations, Scatterplots and Regressions*** | | |
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| **Tuesday, November 12th** | Analyzing the 2024 election using the States and Florida data files.<br><br>We will add the state-by-state, and county results from Florida from Tuesday's election do some preliminary analysis of the 2024 election in SPSS! | |
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| **Thursday, November** | The Overall Research | |

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| **14th** | Process in Political Science | |
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| **Tuesday, November 19th** | Work on Overall Research Process assignment.<br><br>We will spend the class session working on the assignment, and I will be available to help, offer suggestions, and answer questions. | |
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| **Thursday, November 21st** | Review for final exam | |
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| **Tuesday, November 26th** | Review for final exam (optional session) | |
| ***Overall Research Process assignment due, Tuesday, November 26th*** | | |
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| **Tuesday, December 3rd** | **Final Exam.**<br><br>The final exam will be in the computer lab where we hold class, from *1pm to 3.50pm.* Please note the slightly earlier start time than our usual class start time. | |