POS 3703 - SCOPE & METHODS
POL SCIENCE

Section: 0001

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Fall 2025
Class Meeting Days: TR
Class Meeting Time: 01:30PM - 02:45PM
Class Meeting Location: HPH O310
Modality: P
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Jonathan Knuckey
Office Location: Howard Phillip Hall Room 302L
Office Hours
Tuesday, 10.00am-11.30am. These are face-to-face and held in my office.

Wednesday, 10am-11.30am (via Zoom). Use this link for Zoom meetings:
https://ucf.zoom.us/j/6720872288

Office hours do not require an appointment.

I encourage you to use my office hours to discuss course material questions, politics in general, or your future educational and career plans.

If my office hours don't fit your schedule just let me know a day/time when you can me so we can arrange an alternative.

Email: Use the email 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!

In this course, you'll step into the world of political science as a discipline of inquiry—a world that may look quite different from the political science courses you've taken before. Rather than focusing on the content of specific subfields (such as American politics, international relations, or comparative politics), we will explore the tools and methods political scientists use to investigate political questions and puzzles.

Most contemporary political scientists adopt a systematic, empirical approach to research. Unlike journalists, historians, or commentators, political scientists rely on the scientific method to test explanations of political behavior and institutions. Much of this research involves empirical data, hypothesis testing, and statistical analysis to determine which explanations are best supported by evidence.

That said—don't worry! This is not a statistics course, and you will not be required to memorize complex mathematical formulas. We all encounter statistics in everyday life—sports fans, for example, use stats to compare teams or predict outcomes without fear. Political scientists do much the same, applying statistics to understand and explain political phenomena rather than football scores.

This course will help you:

- Understand the research you'll encounter in upper-level political science classes.
- Build the skills needed to research topics for term papers, participate in internships, or conduct independent research projects (such as an Honors Undergraduate Thesis).
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills valued by employers in the public and private sectors, as well as graduate and law schools.

By the end of the semester, you won't just be a consumer of political science research—you'll be on your way to becoming a producer of it. Learning how to "do" political science is not only intellectually empowering, but also surprisingly fun.

I'm looking forward to this semester and excited to take this journey with you!

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**

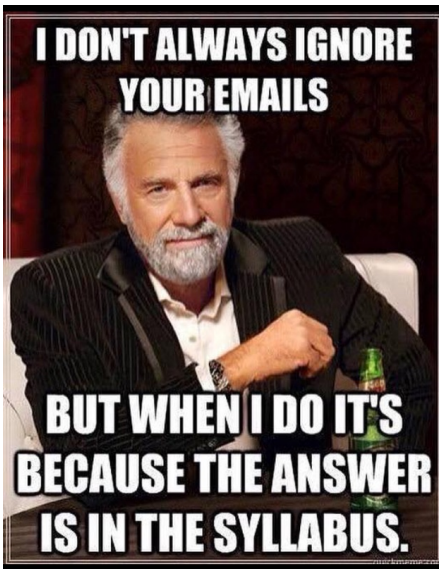
Keele and my Ph.D. in Political Science from the **University of New Orleans**.

My main areas of research and teaching are political behavior, southern politics 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 2025 Premier League Champions **Liverpool** and, of course locally **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 this 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 or an exam 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'd like to meet with each of you for a brief one-on-one conversation during the first two weeks of the semester.

To schedule your meeting, go to the Calendar in Webcourses, select our course (POS 3703), and click on "Find Appointments." There, you can reserve a day and time that works for you. If none of the available slots fit your schedule, just reach out and we'll arrange an alternative.

Meetings can be held in person (Phillips Hall 302L) or via Zoom, depending on the time slot you choose. The modality will be clearly noted for each appointment. For Zoom meetings, please use the link provided in the Instructor Information section above.

These conversations are a chance for you to ask any questions you may have about the course, and for me to start putting names to faces. I'm looking forward to meeting with each of you.

Class Attendance

This part is simple: arrive on time—our class begins promptly at 1.20 pm—and stay for the full duration, which ends at 2.45pm.

I will circulate the attendance roll a few minutes after class begins. On the rare occasion that you're running late, please enter the classroom quietly and with minimal disruption.

Of all the courses I teach, Scope & Methods of Political Science is the one where consistent attendance and careful note-taking are especially important. The material

builds progressively from class to class, so missing a session can put you at a disadvantage.

Because we meet in a computer lab, we will complete in-class assignments throughout the semester (see the syllabus section on assignments for more details). If you're not in class, you won't be able to complete these assignments and therefore won't receive credit for them. Please also note that arriving late may mean missing an assignment given at the beginning of class.

Regular attendance and engagement are essential to your success in this course.

Required Course Materials and Resources

Introduction to Political Science Research Methods, 1st edition,
Authors: Josh Franco, et al.
Online Access: Chapters for this online textbook are available from the "Modules" tab in Canvas. Assigned readings from the book are noted in the course schedule below.

SPSS

After the midterm exam, we'll begin working with **SPSS**—a powerful and widely used software program that political scientists use to analyze data.

Using a series of high-quality data sets (the same kinds used by professional researchers), you'll gain hands-on experience with data analysis techniques that are common in contemporary political science research. Even after this course ends, you may find yourself using SPSS for future projects, such as an independent study or an Honors Undergraduate Thesis.

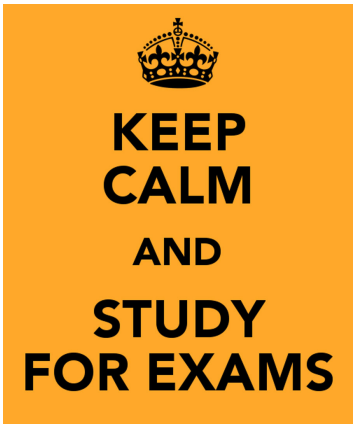
You won't need to purchase anything to use SPSS. In addition to the computer lab where our class meets, SPSS is available at the Classroom Building Lab, Tech Commons, and via UCF Apps, which allows remote access to the software. I'll provide detailed instructions for using UCF Apps later in the semester.

To support your learning, I’ve created a free resource called the “SPSS How-To Guide,” which walks you through every procedure we’ll cover in class. You’ll find this guide under the “Modules” tab in Canvas once we begin our SPSS work.

I’ll explain more about SPSS and how we’ll use it after the midterm exam—but for now, just be aware that you will need access to 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 held during our regular class time in our usual classroom. You will have the full 75-minute class period to complete it.

The exam will include the following components:

- 15 multiple-choice questions
- 15 true/false questions
- 8 short-response questions

It will cover all material discussed in class up to that point, as well as all assigned readings.

A detailed Midterm Exam Study Guide will be provided approximately two weeks before the exam to help you prepare.

The exam is closed book, but you may bring one 5 x 8 note card with any information you believe will be helpful. You may write on both sides of the card and use it during the exam.

Final Exam, Tuesday, December 2nd 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 held during the final exam period in our usual classroom. You will have 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete the exam

The exam will consist of questions data analysis and interpretation questions. However you will not need access to SPSS for the exam

A detailed Final Exam Study Guide will be provided approximately two weeks before the exam to help you prepare.

The exam is closed book, but you may bring one 5 x 8 note card with any information you believe will be helpful. You may write on both sides of the card and use it during the exam.

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 help reinforce your understanding of the material through hands-on practice and application. You can expect to complete at least one in-class assignment during most class sessions, and occasionally more.

These assignments require no prior preparation. They are designed to help you engage with the concepts we're discussing that same day. We'll go over each assignment together in class, so you'll receive real-time feedback and have the opportunity to ask questions as we work through the material.

SPSS exercises

As noted above, during the second half of the course—after the midterm exam—you will be introduced to how political scientists analyze and interpret data using SPSS.

The SPSS homework assignments are designed to give you additional practice working with SPSS and applying the data analysis skills we cover in class. These assignments will help you deepen your understanding of how political scientists draw conclusions from empirical data.

All SPSS assignments are due by midnight on the specified due date. Please refer to the course schedule below for exact deadlines.

Overall research process assignment

Don't worry—I won't be assigning a long research paper at the end of the semester!

Instead, this assignment is designed to help you put together the different stages of the research process that we've explored throughout the course. You'll select a topic from a list I'll provide, and then work through the key steps of political science research, including formulating and testing your own hypotheses using SPSS to analyze data from an original dataset.

My hope is that you'll find this assignment both practical and enjoyable—and perhaps even inspiring. In fact, several students have gone on to further develop their projects into independent studies or Honors Undergraduate Theses (HUTs). I've chaired multiple HUTs that began as versions of this assignment.

As noted in the course schedule, we will dedicate a full class session to reviewing the assignment requirements, and you'll also have time during the final week of the semester to work on your project in class. I'll be available to offer feedback, support, and guidance as you move through each stage.

Due Date: Tuesday, November 26th by midnight.

Grading Procedure

Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

- *In-class assignments: 15%*
- *SPSS data analysis homework exercises: 15%*

- *Overall research process assignment: 15%*
- *Midterm exam: 20%*
- *Final exam: 35%*

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, 92%+

A-, 90-91.9%

B+, 87-89.9

B, 80-86.9%

C, 70-79.9%

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 (91.9%, 89.9%, 79.9%, 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, Model UN)
- 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.

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 & Overall Research Assignment "After Hours" Policy

Please note the following policy for late submission of SPSS assignments and the Overall Research Process assignment:

- 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.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More

information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree

requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

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 and Academic Integrity, 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

When you submit any work for our class my assumption is that it involves your own words, thoughts, ideas and reflections. Therefore, content produced or inspired by generative AI (includes but is not limited to ChatGPT, Co-Pilot, Gemini) is not permitted for any assignment in this course.

Any assignments that show evidence of having used AI to complete them will be automatically receive a grade of zero, and I reserve the right to make a referral for academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

AI can be used for good, and will find be a part of the workplace. However, developing strong competencies in writing and critical thinking will prepare you for that competitive workplace, where you need to be better than what AI can produce. Part of why you learn

to write is learning how to think and how to be a smarter, more articulate, better functioning version of yourself. **You lose that if you hand it off to a machine.**

If you need any further convincing I simply refer you to a recent study by researcher at MIT **"Your Brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of Cognitive Debt when Using an AI Assistant for Essay Writing Task."** The major findings of this study: Researchers used an EEG to record the writers' brain activity across 32 regions, and found that ChatGPT users had the lowest brain engagement and "consistently underperformed at neural, linguistic, and behavioral levels." Moreover, over the course of several months, ChatGPT users got lazier with each subsequent essay, often resorting to copy-and-paste by the end of the study.

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 access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- 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.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good

idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

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

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

Tuesday, August 19th: Course Introduction -- What is Scope & Methods of Political Science?

Required reading:

Franco et al., "Introduction" (you can skip section 1.4 and 1.5 -- although you might find these relevant it you plan to do independent research such as Honors Undergraduate Thesis)

Thursday, August 20th: Why is Political Science a Science?

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 3 "The Scientific Method"

Tuesday, August 26th: The Scientific Method & the Study of Politics

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 3 "The Scientific Method"

Thursday, August 28th: No Class -- *Campus closing ahead of UCF "Football" Game*

Tuesday, September 2nd: The Emergence of an Empirical Political Science

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 2, "The History and Development of Empirical Political Science"

Thursday, September 4th: Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement" (Section 5.1)

Tuesday, September 9th: Inferring Concepts from Measurement; Validity and Reliability

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement" (Section 5.2)

Thursday, September 11th: Levels of Measurement - Nominal, Ordinal, Interval & Ratio Measures

Required reading:

Franco et al., Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement" (Section 5.3)

Tuesday, September 16th: Approaches to Data Collection in Political Science Research

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 6 "Elements of Research Design"

Thursday, September 18th: Units of Analysis

Required reading:

Franco et al., Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Theories, Hypotheses, Variables, and Units" (Section 4.5)

Tuesday, September 23rd: Types of Variables in Political Science Research

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Theories, Hypotheses, Variables, and Units." (Section 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 & 4.6)

Thursday, September 25th: Hypotheses & Hypothesis Testing in Political Science Research

Required reading:

Franco et al., Chapter 5 "Theories, Hypotheses, Variables, and Units." (Section 4.3)

Tuesday, September 30th: Hypotheses & Hypothesis Testing/Review for Midterm Exam

Thursday, October 3rd: ***Midterm Exam***

The exam is taken in our usual classroom.

Refer to the midterm exam guidelines for format, study guidelines and sample questions. These will be available about two weeks prior to the exam in Canvas.

Tuesday, October 7th: Introduction to Data Analysis Using SPSS

Thursday, October 10th Descriptive Statistics - Frequency Tables and Measures of Central Tendency

---

Tuesday, October 14th: Descriptive Statistics - Measures of Variation; Standardized (Z- Scores)

Thursday, October 16th: Bivariate Analysis - Cross-tabulations

Sunday, October 19th: SPSS Homework Assignment - Descriptive Statistics

---

Tuesday, October 21st: Bivariate Analysis - Comparison of Means and Boxplots

Thursday, October 23rd: Statistical Significance and Measures of Association for Cross-tabulations

Sunday, October 26th: SPSS Homework Assignment - Bivariate Analysis

---

Tuesday, October 28th: Statistical Significance and Measures of Association for Comparison of Means Tests

Thursday, October 30th: Controlling for a Third Variable

Sunday, November 2nd: SPSS Homework Assignment - Statistical Significance & Measures of Association

---

Tuesday, November 4th: Correlation Analysis & Scatterplots

Thursday, November 6th: No Class -- *I will be attending the Northeastern Political Science Association conference in Philadelphia*

Sunday, November 9th: SPSS Homework Assignment - Controlling for a Third Variable

---

Tuesday, November 11th: No Class -- *UCF closed in observance of Veteran's Day*

Thursday, November 13th: Regression & Multiple Regression Analysis

Sunday, November 16th: SPSS Homework Assignment - Correlation Analysis, Scatterplots and Regressions

---

Tuesday, November 18th: The Overall Research Process in Political Science - Overview of Assignment and Topic Selection

Thursday, November 20th: Overall Research Process Assignment - You will be working on this in class

---

Tuesday, November 25th: Review for Final Exam -- this is our last class of the semester!

Tuesday, November 25th Overall Research Process Assignment Due

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tuesday, December 2nd: ***Final Exam*, 1.00pm-2.50pm**

Refer to the final exam guidelines for format, study guidelines and sample questions. These will be available about two weeks prior to the exam in Canvas.