POS 3703 - Scope and Methods of Political Science

Section: 0W62

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Lynne Gleiber
Office Location: HPH 301N
Office Hours
8 - 9 am on Wednesdays
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Course Description

POS 3703 COS-POL SCI 3(3,0)Scope and Methods of Political Science: The scope and methodology of political analysis. Extensive examination of the discipline, research design and methodology. Fall, Spr, Sum

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 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 analyses

Required Course Materials and Resources

Political Science Research Methods
ISBN: 9781544358017
Authors: Janet Buttolph Johnson, H. T. Reynolds, Jason D. Mycoff
Publisher: CQ Press
Publication Date: 2019-07-04
Edition: 9th
Online Access: online version

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

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. Graded work connected to modules will be given. The timeframes for competing assignments (when assignments open and closed) and due dates are listed on the course schedule.

Exams will be given with Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitoring proctoring software.

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.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Final Exam Make-up - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
	Week 3 Chapter Quiz Summer	Quiz	100
1/15/26	Financial Aid	Assignment	100
1/16/26	Week 1 - Case summary	Assignment	100
1/23/26	Week 2 - Chapter Quiz	Quiz	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
2/6/26	Exam 1 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
2/13/26	Week 5 Chapter quiz	Quiz	100
2/20/26	Week 6 Chapter quiz - Sampling	Quiz	100
2/27/26	Week 7 Quiz	Quiz	100
3/8/26	Week 8 quiz	Quiz	100
3/13/26	Exam 2 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
4/3/26	Week 12 Frequency Distribution	Quiz	100
4/10/26	Week 13 Quiz - Crosstabulation	Quiz	100
4/17/26	Week14 Quiz - Correlation and Regression	Quiz	100
4/24/26	Week 15 Multiple regression	Quiz	100
5/1/26	Final Exam - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100

Grading Scale

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Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

- **I**f a student misses an exam, they may take a make-up exam with documentation of an emergency. They must contact me within 24 hours of the missed assignment or exam via email.

Missed/Late Assignments

- If a student misses the due date of a weekly assignment, (not including exams) they may turn it in up to one week late. The grade will be reduced by 5% per day late.
- Make up exams may be given in the case of an emergency.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Use of GenAI tools via website, app, or any other access, is not permitted in this class. All components of assignments in this course must be independently and originally completed by the student. Representing work created by GenAI as your own will be treated as plagiarism. This does not apply to corrections of grammar or editing.

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:

1. 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 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 assessment, 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.

2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. 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 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.
4. 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" designated 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.

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.

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.

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 arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's 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 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.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors 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.

Class Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
1	***Module 1 - Building Blocks*** Understanding the Empirical Apporach
2	Empirical Approach to Research
3	Beginning the Research Process
4	Practice and Review - Exam 1
5	***Module 2 - Qualitative Data and the Research Process:*** Building
6	Sampling:
7	Research Design
8	Qualitative Research
9	Quantitative Research Design and Exam 2
10	***Module 3 - Data Analysis*** Spring Break
11	Quantitative Research Design
12	Making sense of data and Frequency Distribution
13	Testing and analyzing relationships: Chapters 12 and 13
14	Correlation and Regression
15	Multiple regression and final exam information
16	Final Exam Period (Classes officially end on May 26.) Final exam is available from April May 2