Voting and Elections POS3273.0001
Pollock / Fall 2011

Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall 407-823-2608
Office hours	MWF: 10:30-Noon
Email	pollock@mail.ucf.edu
Book	Custom book ("CB"), compiled by Pollock Available at: http://store.vitalsource.com/show/978-1-60871-964-8

This course will introduce you to the institutional and behavioral forces that shape voting behavior and electoral outcomes in American national elections. Most of the readings in the custom book (CB) focus on the 2008 elections, but each of the authors also places 2008 (and 2010) in a wider behavioral context. CB selections include material from Flanigan and Zingale (FZ), *Political Behavior of the American Electorate* (12th edition); Michal Nelson's (N) edited volume, *The Elections of 2008*; and Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde (AAR), *Change and Continuity in the 2008 and 2010 Elections*. Course elements include assigned reading, lectures and lecture material, Power Point presentations, and supplemental material.

Requirements:
Exams. You will take three non-cumulative exams during the term—on September 26, October 28, and December 9 at 7:00 a. m.

If you know that you will be unable to take any of the exams on the scheduled dates: Drop the course. No early exams and no make-up exams will be given. No "extra credit" work will be assigned or accepted.

How the exams will be weighted: Your best exam score will count *40 percent* of your course grade. Your next-best exam score will count *35 percent* of your course grade. Your worst exam score will count *25 percent* of your course grade. Exams will be graded in a timely manner and exam grades will be posted on the course site.

If you want to look at your exam: Come to my office during office hours.

If you have a question about how your exam was graded: Bring the following materials to my office—your textbook, your notes on the reading, and the notes you have written during lecture.

Attendance. Attendance is required. Do not arrive late for class. Do not depart early from class. Take careful and complete lecture notes. If you wish to discuss how your exams were graded, then lecture notes are required (see preceding paragraph).

Grading Scale. Your course grade will be determined by this numeric scale:

>=90	86-89	80-85	76-79	70-75	66-69	60-65	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

Schedule for the term.

Week of			
Aug22 Aug29 [Sep5]	Continuities in American elections	**CB, Ch1 & Ch2** (FZ ch1; N ch9 [Mayhew])	*Note: No class Sep3, Sep5*
Sep12	Nominations: rules and outcomes	**CB, Ch3** (N ch9 [Burden])	
Sep19 Sep26	Turnout and Outcomes	**CB, Ch4 & Ch5** (FZ ch2; N ch3 [Pomper]	
Sep26	**First Exam**		
Oct3 Oct10	Media	**CB, Ch6** (FZ ch7) **Pew report** (posted on course site) **Posner** (posted on course site)	
Oct12 Oct14	Partisanship	**CB, Ch7** (FZ ch3)	
Oct17 Oct24	Social groups	**CB, Ch8** (N ch7 [Mellow])	
Oct28	**Second Exam**		
Oct31 Nov7	Issues I and II	**CB, Ch9-Ch10** (AAR chs 6-7)	*Note: No class Nov11*
Nov14	Modeling vote choice	**CB, Ch11** (AAR ch8)	
Nov21 Nov28	Congressional elections	**CB, Ch12 & Ch13** (AAR chs 11-12)	*Note: No class Nov25*
Dec9	**Third Exam (7 a. m.)**		