POS2041 - American National Government
Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Syllabus
POS2041 Summer 2012

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	By appointment For GTA assistance or appointments (use Coursemail, send to "ALL SECTION INSTRUCTORS" and include your group number in the subject line). GTA office hours are posted on the class homepage
Homepages	Dr. Wilson's homepage
Phone	407-823-6772 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use Coursemail for all emails, send to ALL SECTION INSTRUCTORS and include your group number in the subject line

Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Summer 2012
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face time)

Course Description

This is an important time to investigate and understand how government works and the way in which it can impact your life. The US is enduring the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and is engaged in two significant military actions (Afghanistan and Iraq). This class will not teach you what to think about these events, but it will equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand them and draw your own conclusions about the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures. The course, like the book, is divided into four parts that build on each other. The first part examines the foundations of the American government system, the second, freedoms and rights enjoyed (and sometimes not) by US citizens. Part three investigates the politics of democracy as practiced in the US. The final part of the course examines the institutions of government, the relationship between them, and how that affects politics.

Required Text

- "GOVT 3." 2012. Edward I. Sidlow and Beth Henschen. Wadsworth Publishing; 3rd edition
  ISBN-10: 1-111-34401-9

- This edition of the book can be bought either online or at the UCF bookstore (you do not need to buy the access code that might be offered with the book)

Course Requirements

Knight's E-Mail

Effective September 28, 2009, I will only be able to read and send e-mail communications from students using Knight's E-mail addresses.

- For more information, visit: www.fctl.ucf.edu/knightsemail or www.knightsemail.ucf.edu or
- If you have questions about an existing account, please call (407) 823-5117
- You must read and keep copies of all emails I send to you in particular or the class as a group

Assignments

- You are responsible for keeping a copy of all assignments for this class.
- You are also responsible for checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies must be reported to the instructor within 1 week of being posted.

Late, make-up, and extra credit work

- If you miss the quiz deadline, you will NOT Be permitted to take that quiz, unless there are exceptional, documented circumstances; no exceptions!

- All other late work will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module).
- Late discussion postings will receive no credit - there is no late option for discussion postings.
- No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- There are no substitute assignments and positively NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask!
- I will not discuss any module grade more than a week after it has been posted.

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Module #1	2%
Your highest 6 grades from the 7 substantive modules (#2 through #8)	13% each (only the highest 6 grades will count toward your final grade). Your lowest substantive module grade will be automatically dropped.
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Attendance Policy

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, as such. Having said that, you need to keep up with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. Note that each module contains several deadlines; that is, not all work for a module is due on the last day listed on the Schedule. You must consult each module for a list of deadlines for the various assignments within a module. It is your responsibility to check these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you won't miss any due dates.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Furthermore, any attempt to to save, store, distribute, or discuss any quiz questions for this class will be interpreted as an attempt of cheating and will be treated accordingly. All your work will have to be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on quizzes, discussion postings, or essays, and all written work must be original work.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Schedule

NB: complete instructions for each module is contained within the module itself. Each module will be opened just before the start date listed on this schedule.

Dates Module is Open	Topic	Readings
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
May 14 - 21 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #1: Introduction to the course	Read: Chapter One
May 18- 24 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #2: US Government Foundations, the Constitution and Federalism	Read: Chapter Two and Three
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES		
May 24- June 4 All Deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #3: Civil Rights and Liberties	Read: Chapter Four and Five
PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
June 4 - 11 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #4: Interest Groups and Political Parties	Read: Chapter Six and Seven
June 11 -18 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting. Politics and the Media	Read: Chapter Eight and Ten
June 18 - 25 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #6: Campaigns and Elections	Read: Chapter Nine

PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
June 25 - July 2 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #7: Congress and the Presidency	Read: Chapter Eleven and Twelve
July 4	**Holiday, no class**	
July 2 - 11 All deadlines are in the module instructions	Module #8: The Bureaucracy and the Judiciary	Read: Chapter Thirteen and Fourteen
July 12 - 13	Final exam	Read; all chapters in textbook