Public Opinion POS3233 ARV1 & AV59

Pollock / Summer A 2012

Office	302 Phillips Hall
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Book	Erikson & Tedin, *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content and Impact* (8th Edition)

This courses covers all major topics in American public opinion—its definition and measurement, its relationship with democratic governance, the quality of political opinions among citizens, the learning of political orientations, the connection between aggregated opinion and public policy, the role of media and political elites in shaping opinion, and the connection between opinions and electoral choice. The assigned text provides up-to-date treatment of virtually all of the important academic studies of public opinion. Course resources include assigned reading, real-time and video-streamed lectures, Power Point presentations, and supplemental material.

There are two sections of the course: (1) ARV1, which has a room (CL1-Rm 205) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.); and (2) a recorded section (AV59), which is fully online. During the real-time meetings, my lectures will be recorded on video, which you can subsequently view by accessing the Tegrity link on the course site. Despite the format difference, the requirements for both sections are the same. Physical attendance is not required. All course material will be equally available to both sections online. All quizzes and exams will be online.

Grades. Your grade will be based on online quizzes (30 percent of course grade) and online exams (70 percent of course grade). During the term, you will take **four quizzes.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade. You will take **two exams**. Each of your exams will count 35 percent of your course grade. Scheduling and time parameters of the quizzes and exams:

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Quiz or Exam	Open day / date / time	Close day / date / time	Reading/lecture material covered
Quiz 1	Th /May 17 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 20/11 p.m.	May 14, May 16
Quiz 2	Th /May 24 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 27/11 p.m.	May 21, May 23
Exam 1	Th /May 31/ 8 a.m.	Sun / June 3 /11 p.m.	May 14, 16, 21, 23, 30
Quiz 3	Th /June 7 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 10/11 p.m.	June 4, June 6
Quiz 4	Th /June 14 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 17/11 p.m.	June 11, June 13
Exam 2	Mon /June 18/9 p.m.	Fri/June 22/11 p.m.	June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18

Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 28 or June 20.

Quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice format. The quizzes will test you on material that has been covered in the reading and in lecture. For example, Quiz 1, which opens on May 17, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for May 14 and May 16. Quizzes 2 and 3 are based on the same rationale: do the reading, view the lecture, and then take the quiz. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the quizzes. **However, you must take each quiz during the scheduled availability window.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade.

Exams. The exams will have multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. These are non-cumulative exams. The first exam, which opens on May 31, will cover material from the lectures of May 14, 16, 21, 23, and 30. The second exam, which opens June 18, will cover material from June 4, 6, 11, 13, and 18. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the exams. **However, you must take each exam during the scheduled availability window.**

If you wish discuss 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 while viewing the lecture.

I do not give extra credit.

You must work alone in completing the quizzes and exams. Giving or receiving assistance on any quiz or exam constitutes a violation of Academic Behavior Standards as specified in UCF's Rules of Conduct (UCF-5.008). Any student who violates these standards will receive an F in the course.

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

>=90	87-89	80-86	77-79	70-76	67-69	60-66	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Schedule for the term:

Lecture:	**Topic:**	**Reading:**
May 14	Public opinion and democracy	ET chap1
May 16	Measuring public opinion	ET chap2
May 17-20*	**Quiz 1**	
May 21	Micro-level opinion	ET chap3
May 23	Macro-level opinion	ET chap4
May 24-27*	**Quiz 2**	
May 28	No lecture (holiday)	
May 30	Political socialization	ET chap5
May 31-June 3*	**Exam 1**	
June 4	Democratic stability	ET chap6
June 6	Group differences	ET chap7
June 7-10*	**Quiz 3**	
June 11	Media	ET chap8
June 13	Elections	ET chap9
June 14-17*	**Quiz 4**	
June 18	Public policy	ET chap10
June 20	No lecture	
June 18-22*	**Exam 2**	

*See second page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 28 or June 20.