Voting and Elections POS3273.BRV1 & BV59
Pollock / Summer B 2012

Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall 407-823-2608
Office hours	M&W: 4:00-5:50
Email	pollock@mail.ucf.edu
Book	Custom book ("CB"), compiled by Pollock Available at: http://store.vitalsource.com/show/9781452228761

This course is designed to 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, real-time and video-streamed lectures, Power Point presentations, and supplemental material.

There is a real-time section of the course (BRV1), which has a room (CL1-Rm 205) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.), and a recorded section (BV59), which is fully online. During the real-time meetings, my lectures will be recorded on video, which can subsequently be downloaded and viewed by accessing a 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 **three quizzes.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your two 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:

Quiz or Exam	**Open day / date / time**	**Close day / date / time**	**Reading/lecture material covered**
Quiz 1	Tue /July 3 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 8/11 p.m.	June 25, June 27, July 2
Exam 1	Th /July 12/ 8 a.m.	Sun/July 15 /11 p.m.	June 25, June 27, July 2, July 9, July 11
Quiz 2	Th /July 19 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 22/11 p.m.	July 16, July 18
Quiz 3	Th /July 26 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 29/11 p.m.	July 23, July 25
Exam 2	Mon /July 30/9 p.m.	Fri/Aug 3/11 p.m.	July 16, 18, 23, 25, & 30

Note: No lectures will be recorded on July 4 or August 1.

Quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice format. The quizzes will test you on material that covered in the reading and in lecture. For example, Quiz 1, available on July 3, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for June 25, June 27, and July 2. Quizzes 2-3 are based on the same rationale: do the reading, view the lecture, 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 two 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, available on July 12, will cover material from the lectures of June 25, June 27, July 2, July 9, and July 11. The second exam, available July 30, will cover material from July 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30. 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 notes on the reading, and the notes you have written while viewing the lecture.

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

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Schedule for the term:

Lecture:	**Topic:**	**Custom Book chapters** (selections):**
June 25	Continuities in American elections	**CB, Ch1 & Ch2** (FZ ch1; N ch9 [Mayhew])
June 27	Nominations: rules and outcomes	**CB, Ch3** (N ch9 [Burden])
July 2	Turnout and Outcomes	**CB, Ch4 & Ch5** (AAR ch2; N ch3 [Pomper]) **Abramowitz**, "Forecasting" (posted)
July 3-8*	**Quiz 1**	
July 9	Media	**CB, Ch6** (FZ ch7) **Pew report** (posted) **Geer**, "Rise of Negativity" (posted) **Posner**, "Bad News" (posted)
July 11	Partisanship	**CB, Ch7** (FZ ch3) **Hetherington**, "Polarization" (posted)
July 12-15*	**Exam 1**	
July 16	Social groups	**CB, Ch8** (N ch7 [Mellow])
July 18	Issues	**CB, Ch9 & Ch10** (AAR chs 6-7)
July 19-22*	**Quiz 2**	
July 23	Modeling vote choice	**CB, Ch11** (AAR ch8)
July 25	Congressional elections I	**CB, Ch12** (AAR ch11) **Campbell**, "Seats in Trouble" (posted)
July 26-29*	**Quiz 3**	
July 30	Congressional elections II	**CB, Ch13** (AAR ch12)
July 30 –Aug 3*	**Exam 2**	

*See first page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
**Additional reading selections may be required at the discretion of the instructor.
Note: No lectures will be recorded on July 4 or August 1.