Voting and Elections POS3273.AR50 & AV59
Pollock / Summer A 2011

Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall 407-823-2608
Office hours	M&W: 4:30-5:50
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 custom book requires the following software: VitalSource Bookshelf Download the software here: http://www.vitalsource.com/

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 (AR50), which has a room (CL1-Rm 205) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.), and a recorded section (AV59), 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 **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:

Quiz or Exam	**Open day / date / time**	**Close day / date / time**	**Reading/lecture material covered**
Quiz 1	Th /May 19 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 22/11 p.m.	May 16, May 18
Quiz 2	Th /May 26 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 29/11 p.m.	May 23, May 25
Exam 1	Tues /May 31/ 8 a.m.	Sun / June 5 /11 p.m.	May 16, 18, 23, 25
Quiz 3	Th /June 9 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 12/11 p.m.	June 6, June 8
Quiz 4	Th /June 16 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 19/11 p.m.	June 13, June 15
Exam 2	Mon /June 20/9 p.m.	Fri/June 24/11 p.m.	June 6, 8, 13, 15, 20

Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 30, June 1, or June 22.

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 May 19, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for May 16 and May 18. Quizzes 2-4 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 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, available on May 31, will cover material from the lectures of May 16, 18, 23, and 25. The second exam, available June 20, will cover material from June 6, 8, 13, 15, and 20. 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):
May 16	Continuities in American elections	**CB, Ch1 & Ch2** (FZ ch1; N ch9 [Mayhew])
May 18	Nominations: rules and outcomes	**CB, Ch3** (N ch9 [Burden])
May 19-22*	**Quiz 1**	
May 23	Turnout and Outcomes	**CB, Ch4 & Ch5** (AAR ch2; N ch3 [Pomper])
May 25	Media	**CB, Ch6** (FZ ch7) **Pew report** (posted on course site)
May 26-29*	**Quiz 2**	
May 30	No lecture (holiday)	
May 31- June 5*	**Exam 1**	
June 1	No lecture	
June 6	Partisanship	**CB, Ch7** (FZ ch3)
June 8	Social groups	**CB, Ch8** (N ch7 [Mellow])
June 9-12*	**Quiz 3**	
June 13	Issues	**CB, Ch9 & Ch10** (AAR chs 6-7)
June 15	Modeling vote choice	**CB, Ch11** (AAR ch8)
June 16-19*	**Quiz 4**	
June 20	Congressional elections	**CB, Ch12 & Ch13** (AAR chs 11-12)
June 22	No lecture	
June 20-24*	**Exam 2**	

*See first page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 30, June 1, or June 22.