Voting and Elections POS3273.0001
Pollock / Fall 2012

Office	302 Phillips Hall
Office hours	MW: 12:30-2:30 / F:10:30-11:20
Voice	407-823-2608
Book	Custom book ("CB"), compiled by Pollock
	Available at: http://store.vitalsource.com/show/9781452228761

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 24, October 26, and December 7. (The December 7 exam will begin 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		Reading∞	*Notes*
Aug20 Aug27 [Sep3]	Continuities in American elections	**CB, Ch1 & Ch2** (FZ ch1; N ch9 [Mayhew])	*No class Aug31*, Sep3***
Sep10	Nominations: rules and outcomes	**CB, Ch3** (N ch9 [Burden])	
Sep17 Sep24	Turnout and Outcomes	**CB, Ch4 & Ch5** (FZ ch2; N ch3 [Pomper]) **Abramowitz**, "Forecasting" (posted)	
Sep24	**First Exam**		
Oct1 Oct8	Media	**CB, Ch6** (FZ ch7) **Pew report** (posted) **Geer**, "Rise of Negativity" (posted) **Posner** (posted)	
Oct15 Oct22	Partisanship	**CB, Ch7** (FZ ch3) **Hetherington**, "Polarization" (posted)	
Oct26	**Second Exam**		
Oct29	Social groups	**CB, Ch8** (N ch7 [Mellow])	*No class Oct31**
Nov5 Nov12	Issues I and II	**CB, Ch9-Ch10** (AAR chs 6-7)	*No class Nov12***
Nov19	Modeling vote choice	**CB, Ch11** (AAR ch8)	
Nov26	Congressional elections	**CB, Ch12 & Ch13** (AAR chs 11-12) **Campbell**, "Seats in Trouble" (posted)	*No class Nov25***
Dec7	**Third Exam (7 a. m.)**		

∞Additional reading may be required at the discretion of the instructor.
*Instructor at conference.
**University holiday.