POS2041 - American National Government
Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Syllabus
POS2041 Fall 2013

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	Mon and Wed 9:30 am - 12:00 noon or by appointment For GTA assistance or appointments (send email through the class email system to your assigned).
Homepages	Dr. Wilson's homepage
Phone	407-823-6772 (no voice mail)
E-mail	use course mail

Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2013
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 and does impact your life. The US has just experienced its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and is still 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 in the United States.

Required Text

"GOVT5." 2013. Edward I. Sidlow and Beth Henschen. Wadsworth Publishing; 5th edition.

- This edition of the book can be bought either online or at the UCF bookstore (you do not need to buy the access code or any other supplemental materials that might be offered with the book).
- Other readings will be made available to you online without cost.

Course Requirements

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 one 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 **very exceptional, documented** circumstances; no exceptions! • All other late work will be penalized at a rate of five points per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module). • Late discussion postings will be heavily penalized. It is very important that you interact with your peers in these discussions, failure to do so with harm their learning experience and your grade. • 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! • No module grade will be discussed more than a week after it has been posted.

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades. I follow traditional rounding standards, grades that are .5 and higher will be rounded up to the nearest whole number at the end of the semester.

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 read each module's instructions for a list of deadlines for the various assignments and deadlines. 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 any examination, quiz, or assignment will result an "F" for that assignment and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the updated 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.

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

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Schedule

NB: Complete instructions for each module are contained in the individual modules, including the multiple deadlines for each module. Each module will open just before the start date listed on this schedule.

Dates Module is Open	Topic	Textbook Readings
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
Aug 19 - Aug 26	Module #1: Introduction to the course	Read: Chapter One
Aug 22 - Sept 9	Module #2: US Government Foundations, the Constitution and Federalism	Read: Chapter Two and Three
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES		
Sept 10 - Sept 23	Module #3: Civil Rights and Liberties	Read: Chapter Four and Five
PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
Sept 24 - Oct 7	Module #4: Interest Groups and Political Parties	Read: Chapter Six and Seven
Oct 8 - Oct 14	Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting. Politics and the Media	Read: Chapter Eight and Ten
Oct 15 - Oct 28	Module #6: Campaigns and Elections	Read: Chapter Nine
PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
Oct 29 - Nov 11	Module #7: Congress and the Presidency	Read: Chapter Eleven and Twelve
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--November 27-28		
Nov 12 - 27	Module #8: The Bureaucracy	Read: Chapter Thirteen and

	and the Judiciary	Fourteen
December 1-4	Required online Final Exam **<u>Due before 5 pm, December 4</u>**	