Voting and Elections POS3273.0001
Pollock / Fall 2013

Office 302 Howard Phillips Hall
407-823-2084
Office hours Monday & Wednesday: 7:30-8:20 / 12:30-3:00. Friday: 7:30-8:20
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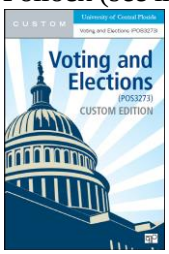
Books
1. Michael Nelson (ed.), *The Elections of 2012* (ISBN 9781452239934)
2. An ebook compiled by Pollock (see link below)



This course introduces you to the institutional and behavioral forces that shape voting behavior and electoral outcomes in American national elections. The readings in the Nelson volume focus on the 2012 elections. The readings in the ebook are drawn from Flanigan and Zingale (FZ), *Political Behavior of the American Electorate* (12th edition); and Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde (AAR), *Change and Continuity in the 2008 and 2010 Elections*. Purchase the ebook here: http://store.vitalsource.com/search?q=pos3273&search.x=66&search.y=12&search=search.

Additional readings are posted on the course site.

Course elements include assigned reading and Power Point presentations. Supplemental material—data links, tables, graphics, and other material—will be shown and discussed during lecture.

Requirements:
Exams (90 percent). You will take three exams during the term: September 23, October 25, and December 6. (The December 6 exam, which is scheduled during finals week, will begin at 7 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 *30 percent* of your course grade. Your worst exam score will count *20 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 (10 percent). Attendance is required and will count *10 percent* of your course grade. Do not arrive late for class. Do not depart early from class. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day.

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∞*
Aug19 Aug26	Continuities in American elections	Mayhew (Nelson ch9) Nelson (Nelson ch1)
Sep9	Nominations: rules and outcomes	Burden (Nelson ch2)
Sep16 Sep23	Turnout and Outcomes	FZ ch2, "Suffrage and Turnout" (ebook) Hetherington (Nelson ch3)
Sep23	**First Exam**	
Sep30 Oct7	Media	FZ ch7, "Political Communication and the Mass Media" (ebook) Pew report (posted) Geer, "Rise of Negativity" (posted) Posner (posted)
Oct14 Oct21	Partisanship	FZ ch3, "Partisanship" (ebook) Hetherington, "Polarization" (posted)
Oct25	**Second Exam**	
Oct28	Party coalitions	Mellow (Nelson ch4)
Nov4 Nov11	Issues I and II	AAR ch6, "Candidates, Issues, and the Vote" (ebook) AAR ch7, "Presidential Performance and Candidate Choice" (ebook) Abramowitz, "Forecasting the 2012 Presidential Election" (posted)
Nov18	Modeling vote choice	AAR ch8, "Party Loyalties, Policy Preferences, and the Vote" (ebook)
Nov25 Dec2	Congressional elections	AAR ch11, "The 2010 Congressional Elections" (ebook) Jacobson (Nelson ch7) Campbell, "Seats in Trouble" (posted)
Dec6	**Third Exam (7 a. m.)**	

∞Additional reading may be required at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: No class will be held on the following dates: Friday, August 30; Monday, September 2; Monday, November 11; Friday, November 29.