POS2041 - American National Government
Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Syllabus
POS2041 Summer 2014

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Howard Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's office hours by appointment For GTA assistance or appointments send email through the class email system to your assigned GTA. GTA assignments and office hours: • Groups xx: Manar Eklhaldi, p.m. • Groups xx: Mark Wood, p.m.
Homepages	Dr. Wilson's homepage
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Course mail only!

Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2014
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

Note that I will drop the lowest module grade (but not the Intro module and not the final exam) when calculating the final grade. Please understand that this Drop module grade will cover ANY AND ALL emergencies and unforeseen events - illness, family emergencies, demanding work schedules, due dates in other courses, etc. There will be NO additional accommodations for missed work other than dropping the lowest module grade. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact me.

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 an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in a "0" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "0" for the entire course, be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, and result in a "Z" designation on your degree audit). A module in which plagiarism has been detected in any part may not be used as the lowest grade "Drop" module. Any case of plagiarism or other academic misconduct and dishonesty, such as not doing your work on your own, sharing quiz questions and essay topics, etc., may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. You can find further information on plagiarism and citations at http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/ClassroomManagement/AcademicIntegrity/PlagiarismStatement.php. I expect you to be familiar with these rules and guidelines, including those on self-plagiarism. If you are unclear what needs to be cited, put in quotation marks etc., please complete the short information literacy module on plagiarism provided by the UCF Libraries. All essays will have to be submitted through turnitin.com.

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. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. Any attempt to save, store, share, or discuss quiz questions with any other student will be interpreted as an attempt to cheat and will be treated as such. All work must be done on your own and must be original work for this course.

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To be clear, 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.