Public Opinion POS3233 ARV01 & AV59

Pollock / Summer A 2014

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Book	Erikson & Tedin, *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content and Impact* (8th Edition)

This courses covers all major topics in American public opinion—its definition and measurement, its relationship with democratic governance, the quality of political opinions among citizens, the learning of political orientations, the connection between aggregated opinion and public policy, the role of media and political elites in shaping opinion, and the connection between opinions and electoral choice. The assigned text provides up-to-date treatment of virtually all of the important academic studies of public opinion. Course resources include assigned reading, real-time and video-streamed lectures, plus supplemental material.

There are two sections of the course: (1) ARV01, which has a room (CB1-Rm 218) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.); and (2) a recorded section (AV59), which is fully online. During the real-time meetings, my lectures will be recorded on video, which you can subsequently view by accessing UCF's Tegrity link (https://ucf.tegrity.com. Log in using your NID). 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:

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Quiz or Exam	Open day / date / time	Close day / date / time	Reading/lecture material covered
Quiz 1	Th /May 15 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 18/11 p.m.	May 12, May 14
Quiz 2	Th /May 22 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 25/11 p.m.	May 19, May 21
Exam 1	Th /May 29/ 8 a.m.	Sun / June 1 /11 p.m.	May 12, 14, 19, 21, 28
Quiz 3	Th /June 5 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 8/11 p.m.	June 2, June 4
Quiz 4	Th /June 12 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 15/11 p.m.	June 9, June 11
Exam 2	Mon /June 18/9 p.m.	Fri/June 20/11 p.m.	June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16

Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 26 or June 18.

Quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice format. The quizzes will test you on material that has been covered in the reading and in lecture. For example, Quiz 1, which opens on May 15, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for May 12 and May 14. Quizzes 2-4 are based on the same rationale: Do the reading, view the lecture, and 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, which opens on May 29, will cover material from the lectures of May 12, 14, 19, 21, and 28. The second exam, which opens June 16, will cover material from June 2, 4, 9, 11, and 16. 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 textbook, your notes on the reading, and the notes you have written while viewing the lecture.

I do not give extra credit.

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	87-89	80-86	77-79	70-76	67-69	60-66	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

[Syllabus continues on next page…]

Schedule for the term:

Lecture:	**Topic:**	**Reading:**∞
May 12	Public opinion and democracy	ET chap1
May 14	Measuring public opinion	ET chap2
May 15-18*	**Quiz 1**	
May 19	Micro-level opinion	ET chap3
May 21	Macro-level opinion	ET chap4
May 22-25*	**Quiz 2**	
May 26	*No lecture*	
May 28	Political socialization	ET chap5
May 29-June 1*	**Exam 1**	
June 2	Democratic stability	ET chap6
June 4	Group differences	ET chap7
June 5-8*	**Quiz 3**	
June 9	Media	ET chap8
June 11	Elections	ET chap9
June 12-15*	**Quiz 4**	
June 16	Public policy	ET chap10
June 18	*No lecture*	
June 16-20*	**Exam 2**	

*See second page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
Note: No lectures will be recorded on May 26 or June 18.

∞Additional material will be assigned at the discretion of instructor.