Syllabus

POS2041 Fall 2014

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: TUES & THURS 9:30-12:00 or by appointment For GTA help or appointments (use Coursemail and send an email to your assigned GTA) Groups 1-9: Chris Faulkner (Mon 10:30-12:30 & Tues 3:00 - 5:00 pm and by appointment) Groups 10-17: Candace Compton (Wed & Thurs 11 am-1 pm and by appointment) Groups 18-25: Matthew Benchimol (Thurs 3-5 pm and by appointment)
Homepages	Professor Wilson's homepage at **UCF (http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/people/wilson-bruce/)** ; at the **CMI (http://www.cmi.no/staff/?bruce-wilson)** in Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use Coursemail for all emails

Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2015
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 is enduring the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and is 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.

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, no exceptions! • Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module). • Discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - there is no late option for discussion postings. • 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! • I will not discuss any module grade more than a week after it has been posted.

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades.

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)	10% each. Your lowest substantive module grade will be automatically dropped (see caveat in Academic honesty, below).
Pop Quizzes	5%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	18%
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.

NB: The federally-mandated attendance reporting policy requires you to complete an assignment before the end of the first week (before 5pm on Saturday). I will use the citizenship quiz for this purpose. It does not matter what score you receive on the quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support.

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 (http://creed.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further action. See the updated **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. Any module that contains any material that is identified by the professor as plagiarized will not be eligible to be dropped as your lowest grade. *Please do not plagiarize!*

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic **creed of this University (http://creed.sdes.ucf.edu/)** 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.

Sexual Harassment

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex that interferes with educational opportunities is an offense subject to the same penalties as offenses based on other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources, and information concerning reporting options at shield.ucf.edu. Perpetrators are subject to expulsion or termination and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

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.

Date	Details	
Fri Jan 16, 2015	Citizenship Test (Roll call) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579175)	due by 5pm
Mon Jan 19, 2015	Ch 1: America in the Twenty-First Century	due by

	(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579163)	11pm
	Ch 2: The Constitution (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579166)	due by 11pm
	Ch 3: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579164)	due by 11pm
	First posting Federalism Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579192)	due by 11pm
	Intro Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579179)	due by 11pm
	Intro essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579181)	due by 11pm
Fri Jan 30, 2015	Federalism disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579180)	due by 11pm
Mon Feb 2, 2015	Constitutions essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579182)	due by 11pm
Fri Feb 6, 2015	Ch 4: Civil Liberties (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579170)	due by 11pm
	Ch 5: Civil Rights (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579165)	due by 11pm
	First posting Civil Rights Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579193)	due by 11pm
Mon Feb 9, 2015	Civil Rights Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579178)	due by 11pm
Mon Feb 16, 2015	Ch 6: Interest Groups (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579162)	due by 11pm
	Ch 7: Political Parties (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579172)	due by 11pm
	US Parties essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579187)	due by 11pm
Fri Feb 20, 2015	Ch 10: Politics and the Media (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579161)	due by 11pm
	Ch 8: Public Opinion and Voting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579169)	due by 11pm
	First Media Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579194)	due by 11pm
Mon Feb 23, 2015	Media Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579176)	due by 11pm
Mon Mar 2, 2015	Midterm exam (upload answers here) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579191)	due by 11pm
Mon Mar 23, 2015	Ch 9: Campaigns and Elections (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579174)	due by 11pm
	Money Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579183)	due by 11pm
Mon Mar 30, 2015	Ch 13: The Bureaucracy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579173)	due by 11pm
	Ch 14: The Judiciary (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579171)	due by 11pm
	First posting Courts Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579195)	due by 11pm
Mon Apr 6, 2015	Courts Disc (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579177)	due by 11pm
Mon Apr 13, 2015	Ch 11: Congress (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579168)	due by 11pm
	Ch 12: The Presidency (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579167)	due by 11pm
Mon Apr 20, 2015	Policy Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579184)	due by 11pm
Tue Apr 28, 2015	Final Exam (upload essay here) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579186)	due by 5pm
	Final grade Module #1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579185)	
	Midterm exam instructions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579190)	
	Roll Call Attendance (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1078387/assignments/3579189)	