Public Opinion POS3233 AR01 & AV59

Pollock / Summer A 2015

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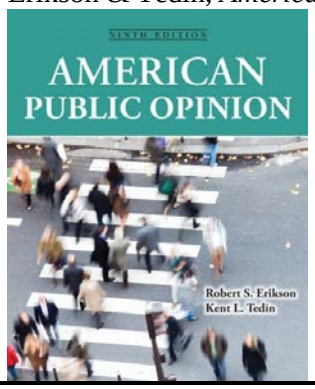
Book	Erikson & Tedin, *American Public Opinion* (9th Edition) 

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 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) AR01, 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 **two quizzes.** Each quiz will count **15 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 28 / 8 a.m.	Sun/May 31/11 p.m.	May 18, May 20, May 27
Exam 1	Th /June 4/ 8 a.m.	Sun / June 7 /11 p.m.	May 18, 20, 27, June 1, 3
Quiz 2	Th /June 11 / 8 a.m.	Sun/June 14/11 p.m.	June 8, June 10
Exam 2	Mon /June 22/9 p.m.	Th/June 25/11 p.m.	June 8, 10, 15, 17, 22

Note: No class will be held on May 25 or June 24.

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 28, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for May 18, 20, and 27. Quiz 2 is 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.** Each quiz will count 15 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 June 4, will cover material from the lectures of May 18, 20, 27, June 1, and June 3. The second exam, which opens June 22, will cover material from June 8, 10, 15, 17, and 22. 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.** Each exam will count 35 percent of your course grade.

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 18	Public opinion and democracy	ET chap1
May 20	Measuring public opinion	ET chap2
May 27	Micro-level opinion	ET chap3
May 28-31*	**Quiz 1**	
June 1	Macro-level opinion	ET chap4
June 3	Political socialization	ET chap5
June4-7*	**Exam 1**	
June 8	Democratic stability	ET chap6
June 10	Group differences	ET chap7
June 11-14*	**Quiz 2**	
June 15	Media	ET chap8
June 17	Elections	ET chap9
June 22	Public policy	ET chap10
June 22-25*	**Exam 2**	

*See second page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
Note: No class will be held on May 25 or June 24.
∞Additional material will be assigned at the discretion of instructor.