POS2041 American National Government

Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Syllabus Summer D 2015

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Bruce M. Wilson
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Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: by appointment For GTA help or appointments (use Coursemail and send an email to your assigned GTA)
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Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Summer 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 by the instructor.
Late, make-up, and extra credit work	• All quizzes are opened on the first day of the semester ◦ If you miss a 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). Exams are penalized at 10 points per day late 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 (or three days after the deadline for the final exam). • There are no substitute assignments and positively NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask! • No module grades will be discussed a week after it was 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	1%
Your highest 6 grades from the 7 substantive modules (#2 through #8)	12% each. Your lowest substantive module grade will be automatically dropped (see caveat in Academic honesty, below).
Pop Quizzes	5%
Final exam	22%
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.