Syllabus
POS 4412: Presidential Campaigning
Summer 2015

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Nathan Ilderton
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Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm. I will be available in the chat room during office hours. The chat room is located under the chat tab.
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Course Information

Course Name	Presidential Campaigning
Course ID & Section	POS 4412 Section DW59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Summer 2015 D Term
Location	Online

Course Description

This course introduces the process of candidate selection, convention behavior, actual campaign process, and the transition of power.

Prerequisite: ENC 1102

Course Objectives

This course focuses on the context and process of presidential elections. Students will become familiar with the historical and contemporary context in which presidential elections take place.

We will examine the process of elections from the primaries through the general election, including the roles of political actors beyond the candidates themselves. Finally, we will examine specific controversies that have arisen within the modern presidential campaign and proposals to address them. These issues include the electoral college, the changing roles of political parties and the emergence of super PACs in 2012.

Required Text

- *Presidential Elections: Strategies and Structures of American Politics.* by Nelson Polsby, Aaron Wildavsky, Steven Schier, and David Hopkins. 13th edition. Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Campaigns on the Cutting Edge.* Richard Semiatin, eds. 2nd edition. Sage CQ Press.
- Links for articles will be periodically included in modules as required reading (See Below).

JSTOR

Several articles will be accessible through JSTOR, an archive of academic journal articles. JSTOR can be accessed through the library website by logging into the library website at **http://library.ucf.edu/**, and clicking on the log in link at the top right. Your library id number is on your UCF ID card.

Once you have logged in click on "Articles and Databases", the "J" tab and select JSTOR from the menu.

Once at the JSTOR website "political science" under browse by discipline and use the reference given to you in the module to find the article.

Any questions regarding logging into the library's site should be directed to the library.

Course Requirements

The course is divided into three week segments (see course schedule). During these periods four modules will be available. You will be required in each period to complete four quizzes participate in one discussion and complete one internet assignment. During the third week of each section an exam will open for you to complete. Modules will open on the Monday at the beginning of the first week and close the Sunday after the third week at 11:59 pm.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

I will not allow missed assignments to be made up without a documented university excused absence. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to complete a module on time please inform me prior to the closing time. If you cannot inform me ahead of time, please inform me within one business day of the closing of the module either via phone or email. Date and time of

makeup modules will be determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. I reserve the right to change the format and questions of makeup modules at my discretion.

Evaluation and Grading

Each module will consist of reading and lecture materials you will be required to read or watch. Each module has a quiz associated with it. Quizzes consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. True/false and multiple choice questions will be worth one point each. Your quiz grade will be computed by dividing the total points earned during the semester by the total points available. Quizzes are listed under the assessments tab on the course menu. **You have unlimited time to complete a quiz. You have only one attempt per quiz, meaning once you open a quiz you must complete it.**

Each three week segment of the class will include one discussion question in which you will be asked to interact with your classmates. Each discussion contribution will be graded on a 100 point scale based on the accuracy of the answer to the question posed and the quality of the interaction with fellow students. These are listed under the discussions tab of the course menu.

Each three week segment of the class will include an internet assignment. These will be assignments that require you to find or examine materials related to presidential campaigns on the web and respond to them. These assignments will be graded on a 100 point scale. These will be listed under the assignments tab on the course menu. **You may resubmit or edit your submission on internet assignments as often as you wish until the day and time the assignment is due.**

During the third week of each segment of the class, an exam will be available which you are required to complete. Exams consist of five short answer questions from the material covered in the three week segment. The second and third exams are *not* cumulative. Exam questions should be answered in or two paragraphs each. Exams will open at midnight on the Monday of the third week and close on the following Sunday at 11:59 pm (see course schedule). **You have only one attempt at exams, meaning once you open an exam you must complete it. Exams have a 60 minute limit from the time you open it.**

Please note that the semester ends on Friday, July 17th. Assignments for Part III (including the exam) will be due at 11:59 pm that day. Exam 3 will open at midnight on Saturday July 11th to give you the normal allotted time for the assignment.

Assignments will be weighted in the following manner for calculating the final grade.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes	20
Internet Assignments	10
Discussions	10
Exam 1	20

Exam 2	20
Exam 3	20
Total	100

Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale.

Letter Grade	**Points**
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Student Engagement and Financial Aid

As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the syllabus quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

The syllabus quiz is a five question multiple choice quiz and can be found under the "Quizzes" tab. The only purpose of the syllabus quiz is to satisfy the financial aid requirement for this class. It will not be included in the calculation of your final grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. 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. 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.

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 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.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Schedule

Modules assignments and exams open at midnight on the open date and close at 11:59pm on the close date.

Weeks	Topic	Readings	Assignments	Open Dates	Close Dates
• Part I* • Weeks 1-3	Module 1:Introduction and Voters	Polsby et al. Ch. 1 Campaigns, Ch. 1	Module 1 Quiz	May 18th	June 7th
	Module 2:Interest Groups	Polsby et al. Ch. 2 Campaigns, Ch. 8	Module 2 Quiz	May 18th	June 7th
	Module 3: Rules, Incumbency, and Money	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 51-73, 85-93 Campaigns, Ch. 2	• Module 3 Quiz • Money in Politics Discussion	May 18th	June 7th
	Module 4: Media	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 73-85 Campaigns, Ch. 3,4	• Module 4 Quiz • Campaign Ads Internet Assignment	May 18th	June 7th
Week 3	**Exam 1**			June 1st	June 7th
• Part II • Weeks 4-6	Module 5: Primaries	Polsby et al Ch. 4, pgs 93-128	• Module 5 Quiz • Primary Process Discussion	June 8th	June 28th
	Module 6: Conventions	Polsby et al. Ch. 4, pgs. 128-146	Module 6 Quiz	June 8th	June 28th
	Module 7: Debates and Persuading Voters	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs 147-164, & 184-190	• Module 7 Quiz • Debates Internet Assignment	June 8th	June 28th
	Module 8: Campaign Professionals, GOTV, and the	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs 164-184 and 190-208	Module 8 quiz	June 8th	June 28th

	General Election	Campaigns Ch. 5, 6			
Week 6	**Exam 2**			June 22nd	June 28th
• Part III • Weeks 7-9	Module 9: Reforms to the Nominating Process	Polsby et al Ch 6, pgs 209-231 Linked Article	Module 9 Quiz	June 29th	July 17th
	Module 10: The Electoral College	Polsby et al., Ch. 6, pgs 231-240 Two Linked Articles	• Module 10 Quiz • Electoral College Discussion	June 29th	July 17th
	Module 11: Parties and Elections	Polsby et al. Ch. 7 Campaigns Ch. 7	Module 11 Quiz	June 29th	July 17th
	Module 12: Campaign Finance Reexamined: The Rise of Super PACs	Campaigns Ch. 10 Linked Article	• Module 12 Quiz • Super PACs Internet Assignment	June 29th	July 17th
Week 9	**Exam 3**			July 11th	July 17th

Notes: The links to readings listed above as "linked article" are available on the introduction of page of the module to which they are assigned.

All dates and times are subject to change by Dr. Ilderton. Be informed and routinely check the Schedule and Class Email or Announcements for any changes or updates.

*Syllabus quiz for financial aid purposes by end of 1st week of class or as soon as possible after adding the class.