Voting and Elections POS3273.0001
Pollock / Spring 2016

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Office hours	TTh 10:30-1:00 p.m. and by appointment
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Book Michael Nelson (ed.), *The Elections of 2012* (ISBN 9781452239934)

This course introduces you to the institutional and behavioral forces that shape voting behavior and electoral outcomes in American elections. The readings in the Nelson volume focus on the 2012 elections. Additional reading and lecture material will provide a more general context for the American electoral system. These additional readings will be posted on the course site.

During lecture, I will make frequent reference to material in several books that you are not required to purchase. I own these books in e-book format and will display text and highlight key points while discussing lecture topics.

I will post the PowerPoint presentations, but I will not post many hyperlinked ancillary figures, tables, and other references. Therefore, it is very important that you attend the lectures and take good notes.

REQUIREMENTS:

Exams. Exams will consist of two parts: multiple choice and essay. The multiple choice part will be administered in-class; the essay part will be administered on-line. Exams will be administered or are due on:

Exam	*Multiple choice*	*Essays*
1	February 9	February 11, 1:30 p.m.
2	March 22	March 24, 1:30 p.m.
3	April 26	May 3, 3:50 p.m.

If you know that you will be unable to take any of the exams on the scheduled dates: Drop the course. No early exams and no make-up exams will be given. No "extra credit" work will be assigned or accepted. *If you want to look at your exam*: Come to my office during office hours. Bring the following materials to my office—your textbook, your notes on the reading, and the notes you have written during lecture.

Your best exam score will count *40 percent* of your course grade. Your second-best exam score will count *30 percent* of your course grade. Your worst exam score will count *20 percent* of your course grade. Exams will be graded in a timely manner and exam grades will be posted on the course site.

Attendance. Attendance is required. *Attendance will count 10 percent of your course grade.* Do not arrive late for class. Do not depart early from class. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet each day.

Signature verification. During the first week of class, you must sign the signature verification sheet. I will match your signature on the signature verification sheet against your signature on the daily attendance sheet. If the two do not match, I will mark you absent for that day. Because the signature verification sheet is the key to determining attendance, **I cannot begin awarding you credit for attendance until you have signed the signature verification sheet.**

GRADING SCALE

Numeric	<=59	60-66	67-69	70-76	77-79	80-86	87-89	>=90
Letter	F	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A

FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENT

All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you must complete the academic activity "quiz" by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **Friday, January 15, 2016**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.** For details: http://online.ucf.edu/teach-online/resources/financial-aid/

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISHONESTY

You must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and conduct, as specified in UCF's Rules of Conduct (UCF-5.008). **Any student who violates these standards will receive an F in the course.** Section UCF-5.008 describes acts that constitute Academic Misconduct:

"1. Academic Misconduct (a) **Unauthorized assistance**: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course related material also constitutes cheating. (b) **Communication to another** through written, visual, electronic, or oral means. The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment or project. (c) **Commercial Use** of Academic Material: Selling notes, handouts, etc. without authorization or using them for any commercial purpose without the express written permission of the University and the Instructor is a violation of this rule. (d) **Falsifying** or misrepresenting your academic work. (e) **Plagiarism**: Whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. (f) **Multiple Submissions**: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor. (g) **Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards**."

Schedule for the term:

Week of:	**Topic:**	**Reading**:**
Jan12	Continuities in American elections	Mayhew (Nelson ch9) Nelson (Nelson ch1)
Jan19	Nominations: rules and outcomes	Burden (Nelson ch2)
Jan26	Campaigns and Outcomes	Hetherington (Nelson ch3)
Feb2	Turnout	PRC, "Youth Engagement Falls" (posted) Issenberg, "5 Ways to Hack Voters' Brains" (posted)
Feb9/Feb11*	**Exam 1**	
Feb16	Media	PRC, "The Media Campaign" (posted) Geer, "Rise of Negativity" (posted)
Feb23	Social groups	Mellow (Nelson ch4)
Mar1 *[Break]*	Partisanship I	Hetherington, "Polarization" (posted) Cook, "The Myth of the Independent Voter" (posted)
Mar15	Partisanship II	PRC, "Political Polarization in the American Public" (posted) PRC, "Trends in American Values: 1987-2012" (posted) PRC, "Views of Parties' Ideologies" (posted)
Mar22/Mar24	**Exam 2**	
Mar29	Models of vote choice	Abramowitz, "Forecasting the 2012 Election" (posted)
Apr5	Congressional elections I	Jacobson (Nelson ch7)
Apr12, Apr19	Congressional elections II	Campbell, "Seats in Trouble" (posted)
Apr26/May 3	**Exam 3**	

*No class will be held on February 11 (instructor at conference).
Additional reading selections **will be required at the discretion of the instructor.