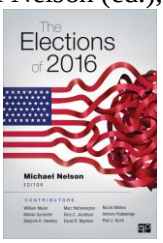
Voting and Elections POS3273
Pollock / Spring 2018

Office	302 Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) 407-823-2608
Office hours	TTh 8-8:50 / 10:30-11:45 / and by appointment
Email	Philip.Pollock@ucf.edu
Book (req.)	Michael Nelson (ed.), *The Elections of 2016* (ISBN 978-1-5063-7808-4) 
App (req.)	Top Hat (TopHat.com)

This course introduces you to the institutional and behavioral forces that shape voting behavior and electoral outcomes in American elections, with special focus on 2016. 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:
(1) Engagement and participation (25 percent)
(2) Exams (75 percent)
(3) Academic activity verification (required by UCF administration)

Engagement and participation: Top Hat. (25 percent of course grade.) Join code: **499931**. You will use the Top Hat classroom response system in this course (www.tophat.com). Top Hat Classroom requires a paid subscription: $26 for the semester. Note: When making the purchase, Top Hat may encourage you to buy additional content. **Purchase only the $26 subscription**. Do not purchase any additional Top Hat content.

Top Hat will perform three tasks. It will record your (i) *attendance* each day, and it will allow you to submit responses to in-class questions, which will be evaluated for (ii) *participation* (did you respond to the question?) and (iii) *correctness* (was your response correct?). You may use Apple or Android smartphones or tablets, laptops—or through text message. Here is how the 25 percent for engagement and participation is broken down:

Engagement and participation: 25% total	
Attendance	15%
Participation	5%
Correctness	5%

Attendance (15 percent). Attendance is required. *Attendance will count 15 percent of your course grade.* Do not arrive late for class. Do not depart early from class. When you arrive each day, an attendance code will be displayed on the screen in front of the class. You will open Top Hat and enter the code, thus recording your attendance. At the beginning of class, I will close the attendance code, and you will no longer be able to record your attendance.

Participation (5 percent) and Correctness (5 percent). During lecture, I will periodically pause my presentation and present short quiz questions, primarily using a multiple choice format. You will have a brief amount of time to respond to each question, using the Top Hat app. After the question times out, you will no longer be able to record your answer. Most questions will be worth 1 point each: .5 points for participation (did you respond?) and .5 points for correctness (was your response correct?). At my discretion, I will display aggregated and anonymized results for each question, allowing us to revisit any points of confusion or misunderstanding.

To reemphasize: Top Hat is a core pedagogical technology for this course. You are responsible for bringing a ready-to-use device to class each day: an Apple, Android smartphone, tablet, or laptop.

- During the time that you are in class, you must use your phone, etc. for attendance and classroom engagement. **You must not use your phone, etc. for any other purpose**.
- I strongly recommend that you bring a **second device as back up**, in the unfortunate event that your primary device is not functioning or fails during class. Your personal device is now a lifeline to 25 percent of the total points for the course.
- **I will not accept "No functioning device" as an excuse for unrecorded attendance, unrecorded participation, or unrecorded correctness.**
- Tutorial here: https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide

Exams (75 percent). There are three exams, each of which will count 25 percent of your course grade. Exams will consist of two parts: multiple choice and essay. The multiple choice part will be administered in-class, and you will record your answers on a Brown Scantron. The essay part will be administered on-line. Exams will be administered or are due on:

Exam	*Percentage of grade*	*Multiple choice*	*Essay*
1	25%	February 6	February 8, 9:00 a.m.
2	25%	March 8	March 10, 9:00 a.m.
3	25%	April 19	April 26, 9:50 a.m.

Exams will be graded in a timely manner and exam grades will be posted on Webcourses. *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.

Academic activity verification (required by UCF administration). 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 verification activity—posted as an Assignment on Webcourses—by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **Friday, January 12, 2018 by 11:59 p.m.** For details: http://online.ucf.edu/teach-online/resources/financial-aid/

GRADING SCALE

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

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.**

Schedule for the term:

Week of:	**Topic:**	**Reading**:**
Jan9	Continuities in American elections	Nelson (Nelson ch1)
Jan16	Nominations: rules and outcomes	Mayer (Nelson ch2)
Jan23	Campaigns and Outcomes	Hetherington (Nelson ch3)
Jan30	Turnout	PRC, "Youth Engagement Falls" (posted) Issenberg, "5 Ways to Hack Voters' Brains" (posted) Burden et al, "Election Laws, Mobilization, and Turnout" (posted)
Feb6/Feb8	**Exam 1**	
Feb13	Media	Geer, "Rise of Negativity" (posted) Fowler et al, "Political Advertising in 2016" (posted) Patterson, "New Coverage of the 2016 Election" (posted) Patterson, "News Coverage of Donald Trump's First 100 Days" (posted)
Feb20	Social groups	Mellow (Nelson ch4)
Feb27/Mar6	Partisanship I	Hetherington, "Polarization" (posted) Cook, "The Myth of the Independent Voter" (posted)
Mar8/Mar10 *[Break]*	**Exam 2**	
Mar20/Mar27	Partisanship II	PRC, "Political Polarization in the American Public" (posted) PRC, "Trends in American Values: 1987-2012" (posted) PRC, "Views of Parties' Ideologies" (posted)
Apr3	Models of vote choice	Abramowitz, "Forecasting the 2016 Election" (posted)
Apr10	Congressional elections I	Jacobson (Nelson ch7)

Apr17	Congressional elections II	Campbell, “Seats in Trouble” (posted)
Apr19/Apr26	**Exam 3**	

Additional reading selections **will be required at the discretion of the instructor.