Course Syllabus

POS2041 Syllabus: Summer 2018

Instructor Contact

Contact Information

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 305E (access via the Political Science Dept office 302)
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: by appointment. To contact your assigned GTA use the course *Inbox* to send an email Dell'Isola: Groups 1-3 (xx & by appt) Mitkov: Groups 4-6 (xx & by appt) Regnier-Bachand: Groups 7-10 (xx & by appt) Miroslav Shapovalov: Groups: 11-14 (xx by appt)
Homepages	Professor Wilson's homepage at **UCF (http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/people/wilson-bruce/)**; at the **CMI (http://www.cmi.no/staff/?bruce-wilson)** in Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use the course *Inbox* for all email communication.

Course Information

Course Details

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings)

Required Text ***(Click on the image below.)***

(https://ucf.pb.unizin.org/amnatgov/)

The enhanced **UCF POS2041 eTextbook edition** (https://ucf.pb.unizin.org/amnatgov/) (used for this class) is available **free-of-charge**.

- *If you desire to purchase a **print version** of the original edition of the textbook, you may do so via Amazon: OpenStax American Government, American Government. OpenStax CNX. Oct 27, 2017 http://cnx.org/contents/5bcc0e59-7345-421d-8507-a1e4608685e8@15.12 (https://www.amazon.com/American-Government-OpenStax/dp/1938168178/ref=sr_1_26?m=A1540JPBBI3F06&s=merchant-items&ie=UTF8&qid=1487972159&sr=1-26)*.

Course Requirements

Course Requirements

Assignments	• You are responsible for: ◦ Keeping track of all deadlines and uploading your work before those deadlines ◦ keeping a copy of all assignments for this class ◦ checking that your grades posted online are correct; ▪ discrepancies must be reported to the instructor within one week of being posted.
Late, make-up, and extra credit work	• You can replace your lowest module grade by taking the optional final exam • Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module). • Because discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - there is **no late option** for final discussion postings. • No work will be accepted more than five days 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!

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades. I use traditional rounding up/down of grades, e.g., 89.5X will be rounded up to an "A"; 89.4X remains a "B."

Letter Grades

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

Grade Weights

Module #1	2%
Modules #2 through #8	98% *(each Module is worth 14% of your final grade)*

	You can replace your lowest Module grade by taking the Optional Final Exam.

Optional Final Exam	If you take the Final Exam, that grade will replace your lowest Module grade (the awful Canvas grade book is unable to do this, so the replacement will take place in my off-line grade book and will be part of my calculation of your final class grade). *Please see the important caveat in Academic honesty, below.*
Total	100%

Schedule

Schedule

Module Dates	***Topic/Module***	***Readings/quizzes***
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
May 14-21	Module #1: Introduction	Module #1: Chapter 1
May 14-23	Module #2: US Government Foundations, Constitution, & Federalism	Module #2: Chapters 2 & 3
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES & PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
May 21-June 1	Module #3: Civil Rights & Liberties Module #4: Interest Groups & Political Parties	Module #3: Chapter 4 & 5 Module #4: Chapter 9 & 10
June 1-11	Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting, Politics, & Media Module #6: Campaigns & Elections	Module #5: Chapter 6 & 8 Module #6: Chapter 7
PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
June 11-20	Module #7: Bureaucracy & Judiciary Module #8: Congress & Presidency	Module #7: Chapter 13 & 15 Module #8: Chapter 11 & 12
June 20-22	Optional final essay exam, uploaded before 11 pm	Read: all chapters in the textbook

NB. *Full deadlines details are available in each module instructions (and in the live schedule below).*

Attendance Policy

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, per se. 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 5 pm on Friday). I will use the citizenship quiz for this purpose. It does not matter what score you receive on the citizenship quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support. FYI, if you score less than 70% on this quiz when you are applying for citizenship, you would fail and would not be able to gain US citizenship until your score passes 70%.*

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on any examination or assignment will result in 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.

All your work must be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on discussion postings, essays, or exams. 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.

Accessibility 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 connect with **Student Accessibility Services (https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri May 18, 2018	Attendance quiz (does not affect class grade) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502416)	due by 5pm
Mon May 21, 2018	Discussion Forum: American Politics (weblink) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502420)	due by 11pm
	Essay: American Politics (issue) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502425)	due by 11pm
Wed May 23, 2018	Essay: Federalism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502426)	due by 11pm
Fri Jun 1, 2018	Essay: Rights (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502429)	due by 11pm
	Essay: The Two-Party System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502430)	due by 11pm
Wed Jun 6, 2018	Deadline: Social media's affect on democracy (initial post deadline) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502424)	due by 11pm
Mon Jun 11, 2018	Discussion Forum: Media (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502418)	due by 11pm
	Essay: Money and elections? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502428)	due by 11pm
Sun Jun 17, 2018	Deadline: Judicial Branch discussion (initial post deadline) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502423)	due by 11pm
Wed Jun 20, 2018	Discussion Forum: Judicial Branch (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502417)	due by 11pm
	Essay: Legislation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502427)	due by 11pm
Fri Jun 22, 2018	Optional Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1280819/assignments/5502431)	due by 11pm