Syllabus
POS 4412: Presidential Campaigning
Fall 2020

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Nathan Ilderton
Office	302A Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Mondays 1:00pm-4:00pm; Wednesdays 10:00am-1:00pm All office hours this semester will be virtual. During office hours I will be available in the course chat room. Zoom meetings are available upon request.
Phone	407-823-2608
E-mail	Please contact me via the email function within webcourses for all class related emails. If webcourses is down you can reach me via my University email: Nathan.Ilderton@ucf.edu.

Course Information

Course Name	Presidential Campaigning
Course ID & Section	POS 4412 Section W61
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2020
Location	Online

Course Description

This course introduces the process of candidate selection, convention behavior, actual campaign process, and the transition of power for U.S. presidential campaigns. The course will examine primary and general elections, the role of interest groups, voter mobilization, and campaign finance. We will also examine important controversies and conflicts in the presidential election process.

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, the emergence of super PACs in 2012, and the Trump campaign of 2016. The course will also follow the 2020 presidential campaign as it unfolds.

Required Text

- *Presidential Elections: Strategies and Structures of American Politics.* by Nelson Polsby, Aaron Wildavsky, Steven Schier, and David Hopkins. 15th edition. Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Campaigns on the Cutting Edge.* Richard Semiatin, eds. 4th 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/Links to an external site.**, and clicking on the log in link at the top right. You will be able to access the library database using your PID.

Once you have logged in click on "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, four-week segments. 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 writing assignment. These assignments will be due the fourth week of each period. During the week following each section an exam will open for you to complete. Modules will open on the Monday of the first week. Assignments must be completed by 11:59pm the Sunday after the week they are due. Because the semester ends on a Friday, the third exam will be available from Friday, December 4th through Friday, December 11th and will partially overlap the availability of the Part 3 assignments.

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 four 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 10 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 four week segment of the class will include a writing 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 writing assignments as often as you wish until the day and time the assignment is due.**

During the week following 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 segment. The second and third exams are **not** cumulative. Exam questions should be answered in one or two paragraphs each. Answers should be original (i.e. **not** cut and pasted from course modules or the text). Exams will open at midnight on the Monday of the week after each segment and close on the following Sunday at 11:59 pm (see course schedule). Exams will be listed under the quizzes tab.

Once you begin a quiz, discussion, or writing assignment there is no time limit for it to be completed. **There is a 60 minute time limit for the completion of exams. Also, be aware that you only get one attempt to complete a quiz or exam, i.e. once you start a quiz or exam you must complete it.**

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

Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Quizzes	20
Writing 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	93.5 - 100
A-	89.5 - 93.4
B+	86.5 - 89.4
B	83.5 - 86.4
B-	79.5 - 83.4
C+	76.5 - 79.4
C	73.5 - 76.4
C-	69.5 - 73.4
D+	66.5 - 69.4
D	63.5 - 66.4
D-	59.5 - 63.4
F	59.4 or below

Final grades are just that, final. I will not reconsider them except in a case where I made a computational error in calculating them (I have taught for many years and have yet to miscalculate a final grade). **Please do not email or call me asking for a grade change for another reason (including requesting extra credit), it will not happen.**

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

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

http://academicintegrity.org/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources come from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.> and have been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Misuse of Sources

A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgradeLinks to an external site..

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/Links to an external site..

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes

Faculty have reported errors in class notes being sold by third parties, and the errors may be contributing to higher failure rates in some classes. The following is a statement appropriate for distribution to your classes or for inclusion on your syllabus:

Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

In-Class Recording Policy

Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility ServicesLinks to an external site. (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

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.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.htmlLinks to an external site..
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency. (Insert class-specific details if appropriate)
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCFLinks to an external site. (click on link from menu on left). (insert class specific information if appropriate)
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.eduLinks to an external site. and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere. You CAN Survive an Active Shooter (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

COVID-19 Statement

University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdfLinks to an external site..

Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden RuleLinks to an external site. for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html (Links to an external site.))

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

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 1-4	Module 1:Introduction and Voters	Polsby et al. Ch. 1 Campaigns, Ch. 1	Module 1 Quiz	August 24th	September 20th
	Module 2:Interest Groups and Parties	Polsby et al. Ch. 2, 7 Campaigns, Ch. 7, 8	Module 2 Quiz	August 24th	September 20th
	Module 3: Rules, Incumbency, and Money	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 47-64, 78-82 Campaigns, Ch. 2	• Module 3 Quiz • Money in Politics Discussion	August 24th	September 20th
	Module 4: Media	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 65-77 Campaigns, Ch. 3, 4, 9	• Module 4 Quiz • Campaign Ads Internet Assignment	August 24th	September 20th
Week 5	**Exam 1**			September 21st	September 27th
• Part II • Weeks 6-9	Module 5: Primaries	Polsby et al Ch. 4, pgs 83-118	• Module 5 Quiz • Primary Process Discussion	September 28th	October 25th
	Module 6: Conventions	Polsby et al. Ch. 4, pgs. 118-134	Module 6 Quiz	September 28th	October 25th

	Module 7: Debates and Persuading Voters	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs 135-154, & 173-179	• Module 7 Quiz • Debates Internet Assignment	September 28th	October 25th
	Module 8: Campaign Professionals, GOTV, and the General Election	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs 154-173 and 179-194 Campaigns Ch. 5, 6	Module 8 Quiz	September 28th	October 25th
Week 10	**Exam 2**			October 26th	November 1st
• Part III • Weeks 11-15	Module 9: Reforms to the Nominating Process	Polsby et al Ch 6, pgs 197-216 Linked Article	Module 9 Quiz	November 1st	December 6th
	Module 10: The Electoral College	Polsby et al., Ch. 6, pgs 216-225 Linked Articles	• Module 10 Quiz • Electoral College Discussion	November 1st	December 6th
	Module 11: Campaign Finance Reexamined: The Rise of Super PACs	Campaigns, Ch 10 Linked Article	• Module 11 Quiz • Super PACs Internet Assignment	November 1st	December 6th
	Module 12: The Campaigns of Donald Trump: 2016 and 2020 in Retrospect	Linked Articles	Module 12 Quiz	November 1st	December 6th
Week 16	**Exam 3**			December 4th	December 11th

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.