POS4623-19Summer DW60

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Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: Guns, Freedom, and Citizenship
- Course ID & Section: POS 4623-19Summer DW60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Summer 2019
- Web Only Course

Course Description

In this course, we will focus on a particularly controversial area of public policy: gun control. Too often, the debate over gun control degenerates into a clash of cliches and clever slogans. In this class, we will consider the debate over gun control from an academic perspective. We will examine America's gun problem in historical context and study the most recent data on gun violence. We will analyze federal and state gun control laws and consider the political forces that shape gun control laws. Students will complete an original research paper examining media coverage of a mass shooting to better understand the public perception of gun violence. We will conclude the class by considering emerging issues in gun control policy.

Most people see the gun control as a two-sided debate between those who would take guns away and those who oppose any gun regulation. As we'll see, the politics of gun control is not so simple. It's not an all-or-nothing issue. In designing this course, I've tried to focus on identifying areas of consensus and use academic and mainstream media sources rather than advocacy pieces from political outlets. I think it's important to consider evidence fairly, but that does not always mean giving "equal time to both sides." If, for example, we consider the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT, I feel no obligation to give equal consideration to conspiracy theorists who claim the shooting was staged because the evidence isn't evenly split on whether this shooting happened. I am primarily interested in looking at the issue like a social scientist. You're welcome to hold and express your own personal opinions, but you're going to be asked to evaluate evidence rather then merely express personal opinions.

Course Prerequisites

ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

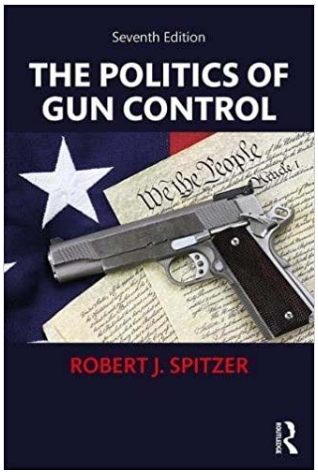
The objectives of this course include:

- Understanding key terms and concepts related to gun control,
- Evaluating the constitutional right to bear arms,
- Assessing evidence on effects of gun control,

- Analyzing the media coverage of a mass shooting,
- Improving writing, research, and critical thinking skills, and
- Developing collaborative skills in small group discussions of course material.

Required Texts and Materials

Spitzer, Robert J. 2018. *The Politics of Gun Control, Seventh Edition.* New York: Routledge (hereafter "Spitzer"). ISBN-13: 978-1138559141, ISBN-10: 1138559148. **See on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Politics-Gun-Control-Robert-Spitzer/dp/1138559148)**



In addition to reading the textbook, you will be required to read articles, watch videos, and view web pages. These supplementary materials are incorporated as links in course material and are available at no additional cost to students.

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (50%) – Each numbered module contains a quiz which include multiple choice, true false questions, and a short answer question.
2. **Small Group Discussions** (10%) – Each numbered module contains one small group discussion of potential module quiz short answer questions.
3. **Research Paper** (20%) - You will prepare a moderate-length research paper examining the pattern of news reporting following a mass shooting in the United States.
4. **Final Exam** (20%) – The Final Examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a comprehensive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions on the Final Exam.

Workload Expectations

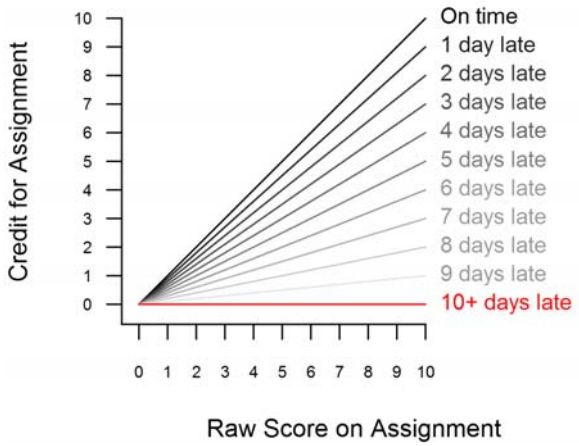
This is a three credit hour class. The workload expectation per credit hour is set forth in the **UCF Catalog, Registration Policies, Terms and Credit Hours (http://catalog.ucf.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=170#registration-policies)**, which states the amount of work represented by one credit hour is not less than "one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time" In an online class, you make up for hours of class time on your own. This means you are expected to work at least 9 hours per week on this class in a regular Fall or Spring Semester or ***18 hours per week*** on this class in an abbreviated Summer Term.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-up work will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. There is no extra credit available. See **UCF Policy 4.401. (http://policies.ucf.edu/)** and **UCF Regulation 5.020 (http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5.asp)**.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. Your score on late work will be reduced 10% per day late. The figure below may help you understand how the policy works.



For example, if receive a score of 9 our of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. you took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced 20%, so you will receive a 7.2 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after your have completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class. Lateness deductions may be excused for official University activities or personal emergencies.

Grading Scale

Name:	Range:	
A	100 %	to 92.5%
A-	< 92.5 %	to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5 %	to 86.5%
B	< 86.5 %	to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5 %	to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5 %	to 76.5%
C	< 76.5 %	to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5 %	to 69.5%
D+	< 69.5 %	to 66.5%
D	< 66.5 %	to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5 %	to 59.5%
F	< 59.5 %	to 0.0%

Course grades are rounded to the nearest integer; thus, an overall numeric grade of 89.5% rounds to 90 and an A- letter grade. Any missing assignments are treated as 0 scores for the purposes of calculating final course grades.

Email, Announcements, and WebCourses Messages

I may occasionally email, webcourses announcements, and/or webcourses messages to communicate with students about this class. I check my email regularly during weekdays and occasionally during the weekend. Students may expect an email reply by the next business day and encouraged to follow-up with me if I do not reply by the next business day. Grades will be recorded Webcourses and will follow student data classification and security standards as addressed in **UCF Policies 4.007.1 and 4.008.1 (http://policies.ucf.edu/)** when distributing any grade-related information.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Group Work Policy

This course requires both individual and group work. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for your own work where indicated. Module review exercises and module quizzes are individual assignments.

Professionalism Policy

Follow University policy and basic etiquette. You must behave appropriately in all your class interactions.

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 (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** 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. See **Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Citations** for additional information and answers to frequently asked questions.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/)**, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have access to writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/schedule-a-consultation/)** with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you! This service is free to you.

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 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 be registered 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.

Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety

Students are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies. For more information, **see Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Statement on Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety (http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/Syllabus/statements.php#safety)**.

Accommodations for 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 the instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith (not already reflected in the normal class schedule). See the **Faculty Center's page on Religious Observances (http://www.fctl.ucf.edu**

/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/ReligiousObservances/) for calendar of commonly observed holidays. For additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives (https://diversity.ucf.edu/) at 407-823-6479.

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.

Financial Aid Requirement

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 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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon May 13, 2019	UCF Classes Start (Summer Term D 2019) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713953&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141778)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 15, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141795)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 17, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713944&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141776)	due by 5pm
Sun May 19, 2019	Module 1 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141786)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 22, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141794)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 24, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713951&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun May 26, 2019	Module 2 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141780)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 29, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141793)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 31, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713945&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jun 2, 2019	Module 3 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141777)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 5, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141791)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Fri Jun 7, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713948&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jun 9, 2019	Module 4 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141781)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 12, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141792)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 14, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713950&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jun 16, 2019	Module 5 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141782)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 19, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141790)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 21, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713947&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jun 23, 2019	Module 6 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141775)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 26, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141789)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 28, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713949&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jun 30, 2019	Module 7 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141783)	due by 11:59pm
	Upload Your Research Paper (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141796)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 3, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141788)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 5, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713943&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jul 7, 2019	Module 8 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141784)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 10, 2019	Small Group Discussion for Module 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141787)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 12, 2019	Reminder: Replies Due, Small Group Discussion of Module 9 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713946&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am
Sun Jul 14, 2019	Module 9 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141779)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 16, 2019	Final Exam - Summer 2019 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1327416/assignments/6141785)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 17, 2019	Grades Due to UCF (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1713942&include_contexts=course_1327416)	12am