Course Syllabus

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POS2041 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 305E (access via the Political Science Dept office 302) CLOSED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: by appointment. There are some GTAs assigned to this class who will help with grading (although I am responsible for all final grades) and can help you understand the material better if need be. • You can contact your GTAs using the Canvas email system
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
E-mail	Please use the course *Inbox* for all email communication.

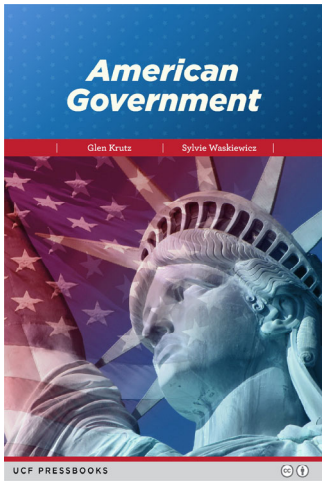
Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Summer A 2020
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings)

Required Free Textbook *(Click on the image below.)*

Good news: The enhanced UCF POS2041 eTextbook edition (https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/pos2041bw/) is available **free-of-charge**.
If you want a **print version of the textbook, you can buy it on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/dp/1947172654) .*

Join the *POS2041 - Summer 2020* Hypothes.is annotation community (https://hypothes.is/groups/iPeAmEzv/pos2041-su-2020-wilson) .
**This tool allows you to make notes and/or discuss the textbook content with your classmates (https://guide.pressbooks.com/chapter/hypothesis-for-webbook-annotation-comments/) .*



[(https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/pos2041bw/)](https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/pos2041bw/)

**This is not a university or class requirement, so any decision to make an account on Hypothes.is and use the tool is of your own free will.*

Course Requirements

Civic Literacy Objectives	As part of the 2017 legislative session, a new requirement for students initially entering college in the 2018-19 academic **url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.leg.state.fl.us%2FStatutes%2Findex.cfm%3FApp_mode%3DDisplay_Statute%26Search_String%3** **1099%2F1007%2FSections%2F1007.25.html&data=02%7C01%7CKEISHA.HOERRNER%40UCF.EDU%7Caa38b1b9efcb4e9dc6**). One way for students to demonstrate civic literacy is to successfully complete POS 2041 that address the following fou 1. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy 2. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application. 3. Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature 4. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, an
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 3 days** of being posted.
Late, make-up, and extra credit work	• Your lowest module grade can be replaced by taking the optional final exam. ◦ This policy is designed to accommodate any and all reasons for missing a module: illness, family vacation, missing • Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 20% per day late (including week • Because discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - **NO late postings are possible once t** • 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., 89.5 will be rounded up to an "A"; 89.4 remains a "B."

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

Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Module #1	all parts must be completed; worth 2% of your final class grade
Modules #2 through #8	Each substantive *Module is worth 14% of your final class grade*
Optional Final Exam	Your lowest module grade can be replaced by taking the Optional Final Exam
Total	100%

Schedule

Module Dates	***Topic/Module***	***Text Book Readings***
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
May 11-18	Module #1: Introduction	Module #1: Chapter 1
May 14-22	Module #2: US Government Foundations, Constitution, & Federalism	Module #2: Chapters 2 & 3
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES & PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
May 22-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 - 8	Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting, Politics, & Media Module #6: Campaigns & Elections	Module #5: Chapter 6 & 8 Module #6: Chapter 7
PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
June 8-16	Module #7: Bureaucracy & Judiciary Module #8: Congress & Presidency	Module #7: Chapter 13 & 15 Module #8: Chapter 11 & 12

June 16-19	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 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

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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 13, 2020	How to Avoid Plagiarism (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582517)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 15, 2020	Attendance quiz (does not affect class grade) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582507)	due by 5pm
Mon May 18, 2020	Discussion: American Politics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582512)	due by 11:59pm
	Essay: American Politics (issue) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582513)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 22, 2020	Essay: Constitution (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582514)	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 26, 2020	Initial discussion post deadline: Parties (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582519)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 1, 2020	Discussion: Parties (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582511)	due by 11:59pm
	Essay: Rights (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582516)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 5, 2020	Initial discussion post deadline: Media (Do not post here!) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582518)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 8, 2020	Discussion: Media (Post here!) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582510)	due by 11:59pm
	Essay: Money and elections? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582515)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 16, 2020	Discussion: Judicial Branch (Post here!) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582509)	due by 11:59pm
	Module #8 Presidential power (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582522)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 19, 2020	Optional Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582523)	due by 11:59pm
	Module #1 grade (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1355813/assignments/6582521)	

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