POS2041 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 305E (Please note my UCF office will be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00-11:00 & by appointment. Zoom (Optional) AMA meetings Mondays 10:00-10:30am (Link sent out on Monday mornings) Four GTAs have been assigned to this class, they will help me with grading (although I am responsible for all final grades) and, if need be, they can help you understand the material better. GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistant) • Groups 1 - 6: Sean Skillings • Groups 7 - 17: Craig Wilding • Groups 17 - 21: Bailey Sellers • Groups 22 - 24: Lea Faure You can contact your GTAs using the Canvas email system
Homepages	@ UCF ; @ CMI (Bergen, Norway); @ Google Scholar
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	Spring 2021
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings)

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

Good news: The enhanced UCF POS2041 eTextbook editionLinks to an external site. is available **free-of-charge**.
If you want a **print version of the textbook, you can buy it on Amazon.*

Krutz, Glen & Sylvie Waskiewicz. 2019. *American Government* 2e. Openstax: Houston, TX. Available online https://openstax.org/books/american-government-2e/pages/1-introduction.

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 year to demonstrate civic literacy has been enacted (see section 1007.25(4), Florida Statute). One way for students to demonstrate civic literacy is to successfully complete POS 2041, which addresses the following four learner outcomes that are included in this course: 1. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our Federated form of government. 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 and functions of our institutions of self-governance. 4. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

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 and/or questions about grades 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 accommodates any and all reasons for missing a module: illness, family vacation, missing deadlines, etc. (no need to inform me, just take the optional final exam). • Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 20 points 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 - **NO late postings are possible once the discussion ends**. • 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." (I do not use + and - grades).

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	You can replace your lowest module grade by taking the Optional Final Exam. • If your lowest module grade is higher than your graded earned on the optional final exam, then the exam grade will not lower your overall class grade.
Total	100%

Schedule

Module Dates	Topic/Module	Readings
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
Jan 11-19	Module #1: Introduction	Chapter 1
Jan 15- 25	Module #2: US Government Foundations, Constitution, and Federalism	Chapters 2 & 3
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES		
Jan 25 - Feb 8	Module #3: Civil Rights and Liberties	Chapters 4 & 5
PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
Feb 8 - 22	Module #4: Interest Groups and Political Parties	Chapters 9 & 10

Feb 22 - Mar 8	Module #5: Campaigns and Elections	Chapters 7
Mar 8 - 22	Module #6: Public Opinion, Voting. Politics and the Media	Chapter 6 & 8
PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
Mar 22 - Apr 5	Module #7: The Courts and the Bureaucracy	Chapters 13 &15
Apr 5 - 23	Module #8: Congress and the Presidency	Chapters 11 & 12
April 25 - 28	Optional Final Exam, uploaded before **11:59 pm April 28th**	all textbook chapters

NB. *Full deadlines details are available 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, but you do need to keep up with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. NB. Modules with discussions contain two deadlines; that is, not all work for a module can be done 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 (also visible in the module instructions and the calendar. 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. for further action. See the updated UCF Golden Rule. 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 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 ServicesLinks to an external site., 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	
Fri Jan 15, 2021	Assignment Attendance quiz (does not affect class grade)	due by 5pm
Tue Jan 19, 2021	Assignment Discussion: American Politics (post here)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment UCF Creed Based Academic Integrity Commitment	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Essay: American Politics	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment How to Avoid Plagiarism	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	Assignment Essay: Constitution and Federalism	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	Assignment Essay: Rights	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Feb 15, 2021	Assignment Discussion: Parties (post here)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	Assignment Discussion Final deadline	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	Assignment Knowledge Check (Part 2)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	Assignment Essay: Elections	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	Assignment Discussion: Media (Post here!)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	Assignment Media final Deadline	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	Assignment Essay: Supreme Court	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 23, 2021	Assignment Essay: Presidential ranking	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 28, 2021	Assignment Optional Final Exam	due by 11:59pm