# POS2041 Syllabus Summer A 2021

## Dr. Bruce Wilson

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## Instructor Contact

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| **Instructor** | Dr. Bruce M. Wilson |
| **Office** | Phillips Hall 305E (Please note all UCF offices are closed due to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC) |
| **Office Hours** | Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: by appointment.<br><br>Optional zoom AMA meeting Mondays 9 am-9:30 am<br><br>GTAs have been assigned to this class, they will help with grading (although I am responsible for all final grades) and can help you understand the material better if need be.<br><br>• Groups 1-6: Davide Dell'isola<br>• Groups 7-12: Tutku Ayhan Ergin<br>• Groups 13-15: Zlatin Mitkov<br><br>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. |

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## Course Information

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| **Course Name** | POS2041 American National Government |
| **Credit Hours** | 3 Credit Hours |

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| **Semester/Year** | Summer A, 2021 |
| **Location** | Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings) |

## Required Free Textbook

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

## Course Requirements

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| **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 that address the following four learner outcomes that are included in this course:<br><br>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.<br>2. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.<br>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.<br>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:<br>  ○ Keeping track of all deadlines and uploading your work before those deadlines |

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| | ◦ keeping a copy of all assignments for this class<br>◦ checking that your grades posted online are correct;<br>▪ 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.<br>◦ 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).<br>• Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 20% per day late (including weekend days and holidays).<br>• Because discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - **NO late postings are possible once the discussion ends**.<br>• No work will be accepted more than five days after the deadline (or three days after the deadline for the final exam).<br>• There are no substitute assignments and positively<br>◦ NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask! |

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## Evaluation and Grading

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

| Classwork Letter Grade Earned | Corresponding Points |
|---|---|
| A (excellent) | 90-100 |
| B (good) | 80-89 |
| C (average) | 70-79 |
| D (poor) | 60-69 |
| F (unacceptable/failing) | 59 or below |

| **Assignment** | **Percentage of Grade** |
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| Module #1 | all parts must be completed; worth 2% of your final class grade (pass/fail) |
| Modules #2 through #8 | Each substantive *Module is worth 14% of your final class grade* |
| Optional Final Exam | Take the Optional Final Exam to replace your lowest module grade |
| Total possible points | 100 |

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**Schedule**

| ***Module Dates*** | ***Topic/Module*** | ***Text Book chapters*** |
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| PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT | | |
| May 17-24 | Module #1: Introduction | Module #1: Chapter 1 |
| May 20-31 | Module #2: US Government Foundations, Constitution, & Federalism | Module #2: Chapters 2 & 3 |
| PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES & PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY | | |
| May 31- June 7 | Module #3: Civil Rights & Liberties<br><br>Module #4: Interest Groups & Political Parties | Module #3: Chapter 4 & 5<br><br>Module #4: Chapter 9 & 10 |
| June 7 - 14 | Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting, Politics, & Media<br><br>Module #6: Campaigns & Elections | Module #5: Chapter 6 & 8<br><br>Module #6: Chapter 7 |
| PART IV: INSTITUTIONS | | |

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| June 14-21 | Module #7: Bureaucracy & Judiciary<br><br>Module #8: Congress & Presidency | Module #7: Chapter 13 & 15<br><br>Module #8: Chapter 11 & 12 |
| June 21-24 | Optional final essay exam | Read: all textbook chapters |

***NB.*** *Full deadline details can be seen in the class schedule and calendar).*

## 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. Note that modules with discussions contain two 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 and take note of the deadlines (calendar and syllabus). It is your responsibility to know these deadlines 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 the exam. 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, 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 for 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.