Syllabus
POS 4412: Presidential Campaigning
Fall 2023

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Nathan Ilderton
Office	302A Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours	Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm to 5:00pm 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 W60
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Fall 2023
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, with particular emphasis on the 2020 presidential election.

Required Text

- *Presidential Elections: Strategies and Structures of American Politics.* by Nelson Polsby, Aaron Wildavsky, Steven Schier, and David Hopkins. 15th edition. Rowman & Littlefield.
- 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/**, 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, five-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. Modules will open on the Monday of the first week of each segment. Assignments and quizzes will open on the first Monday and are due by

11:59pm on the last Sunday of each segment. Part III will have an additional week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday (see course schedule). Exams will open on Monday of the fifth week of each segment and will be due the following Sunday. Because the semester ends on a Saturday, the third exam will be available from Sunday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 9th.

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.

If you miss an assignment without a documented university accepted excuse, I will accept assignments with penalty. These penalties begin at 10% per business day that the assignment is late. I encourage you to contact me as quickly as possible if you miss an assignment to make arrangements for late submission.

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 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 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 fifth week of 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 be listed under the quizzes tab. Because the

semester ends on a Saturday, the third exam will be available from Sunday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 9th. 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.**

LockDown Browser

LockDown Browser Requirement
This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for the three exams. Note: This course requires only the lockdown browser feature, not the Respondus Webcam Monitor. Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser:

https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml

Links to an external site.

Download Instructions
Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

Links to an external site.

Once Installed

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into to Canvas
- Navigate to the exam

Note: You won't be able to access an exam that requires LockDown Browser with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

Guidelines
When taking an online exam follow these guidelines:

- Select a location where you won't be interrupted
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it (60 minutes), and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Getting Help
Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- Contact the UCF IT Service Desk or UCF Online Learning
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select "LockDown Browser & Respondus Monitor" as the product to view helpful articles.
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

Student Engagement and Financial Aid

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.

Title IX Policy

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. 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 https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

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*	Module 1:Introduction and Voters	Polsby et al. Ch. 1	Module 1 Quiz	August 21st	September 17th
	Module 2:Interest Groups and Parties	Polsby et al. Ch. 2, 7	Module 2 Quiz	August 21st	September 17th
	Module 3: Rules, Incumbency, and Money	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 47-64, 78-82	• Module 3 Quiz • Money in Politics Discussion	August 21st	September 17th
	Module 4: Media	Polsby et al. Ch. 3 pgs 65-77	• Module 4 Quiz • Campaign Ads Internet Assignment	August 21st	September 17th
	Exam 1			September 18th	September 24th
• Part II	Module 5: Primaries	Polsby et al Ch. 4, pgs 83-118	• Module 5 Quiz • Primary Process Discussion	September 25th	October 22nd
	Module 6: Conventions	Polsby et al. Ch. 4, pgs. 118-134	Module 6 Quiz	September 25th	October 22nd
	Module 7: Debates and Persuading Voters	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs	• Module 7 Quiz	September 25th	October 22nd

		135-154, & 173-179	• Debates Internet Assignment		
	Module 8: Campaign Professionals, GOTV, and the General Election	Polsby et al. Ch 5, pgs 154-173 and 179-194	Module 8 Quiz	September 25th	October 22nd
	Exam 2			October 23rd	October 29th
• Part III	Module 9: Reforms to the Nominating Process	Polsby et al Ch 6, pgs 197-216 Linked Article	Module 9 Quiz	October 30th	December 3rd
	Module 10: The Electoral College	Polsby et al., Ch. 6, pgs 216-225 Linked Articles	• Module 10 Quiz • Electoral College Discussion	October 30th	December 3rd
	Module 11: Campaign Finance Reexamined: The Rise of Super PACs	Linked Article	• Module 11 Quiz • Super PACs Internet Assignment	October 30th	December 3rd
	Module 12: The 2020 Election in Perspective		Module 12 Quiz	October 30th	December 3rd
	Exam 3			December 3rd	December 9th

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.

*Complete the syllabus quiz for financial aid purposes by end of 1st week of class or as soon as possible after adding the class.