POS 4204 - POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Section: 0W60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Fall 2025
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Lynne Gleiber
Office Location: HPH 302N
Office Hours
Wednesdays 10 - noon and by appointment
Email: Lynne.Gleiber@ucf.edu

Course Description

POS 4204 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Political Behavior: PR: POS 2041 or C.I. Mass political behavior, concentrating on voting and participation, primarily in the United States. Occasional.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Students who successfully complete the course will have obtained:

- Knowledge of widely accepted concepts of:
  - American voting behavior
  - Political Socialization
  - The effects of inequality on participation
  - Participation and the Democratization process
  - Social movement as forms of political behavior
- Knowledge of types of political behavior
- Knowledge of drivers of political behavior

Required Course Materials and Resources

All course readings are posted on Canvass.

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Final grades will be composed of the following:
Examination 1 20%
Examination 2 20%
Final Examination (Not Cumulative) 30%
Weekly activities 30%

Respondus Lockdown is used for exams: Proctoring Resources for Students at UCF - UCF

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Interest Groups	Discussion	0
	Week 8 | Spiral of Silence	Assignment	100
8/21/25	Academic Activity	Assignment	0
8/21/25	Academic Activity	Assignment	0

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/31/25	Week 2	The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion	Quiz	100
9/5/25	Exam #1 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
9/7/25	Week 3	Achen discussion	Discussion	100
9/14/25	Exam #1 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
9/21/25	Week 5	Verba et al. article - Race, Ethnicity and Political Resources	Discussion	100
9/28/25	Week 6	Interest groups	Discussion	100
10/5/25	Week 7	Who participates, what do they say?	Discussion	100
10/12/25	Exam 2 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
10/22/25	Exam 2 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/26/25	Week 10	Pictures and Media Choices	Discussion	100
11/2/25	Week 11 - Public Opinion	Discussion	100
11/9/25	Week 12 - Vote Choice and Electoral Decisions	Discussion	100
11/16/25	Week 13 Discussion	Discussion	100
11/23/25	Week 14 - Message Music and Social Change	Discussion	100
11/28/25	Final Exam - Spring 2024 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
11/30/25	Week 15	Current Social Movements in response to economic hardship	Discussion	100
12/3/25	Final Exam - Fall 2024 - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%

Letter Grade	Percentage
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Assignment Due Dates

- Exams are given during weeks one and nine and are due by Sunday at 11:59 pm.
- Final exam is available from Monday December 2 - Wednesday, December 4 and is due by December 4 at 11:59 pm
- Weekly assignments are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm
    - **Discussions:**
        - **Initial Post**
            - **Full credit is given if the initial post is made by Thursday at 11:59 pm.**
            - Late initial posts will be accepted with a deduction of 5% per day late as detailed in the syllabus.
            - No credit is given if there is no initial post
            - **Reply to a Classmate**

- A reply to a classmate is required by Sunday at 11:59 pm.
- A 25% deduction will be taken if a reply is not made on time.
- Partial credit for late replies will not be given.

Missed/Late Assignments

If a student misses an exam or other assignment, they must provide sufficient justification for doing so (e.g. a documented emergency) to qualify for a make-up-exam. If documentation is not provided, a make-up exam will not be given. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to discuss the possibility of taking a make-up exam**.**

Assignments up to one week late are accepted but will incur a 5% per day late reduction of the grade.

Assignments more than one week late are not accepted.

In the interest of fairness to all students, **extra credit work will not be given.**

Attendance

Weekly engagement in course modules is expected.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Written assignments will take the form of discussion posts that reflect students' thoughts on the works we will examine. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is prohibited. Use of GenAI tools via website, app, or any other access, is not permitted in this class. All components of assignments in this course must be independently and originally completed by the student. Representing work created by GenAI as your own will be treated as plagiarism.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu

- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the ONAC website or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.

    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/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 this activity 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.

Class Schedule

Week	Topic
1	**Part 1: Political Behavior Essentials** *An Economic Theory of Democracy* by Anthony Downs Part 1
2	The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinions by John Zaller (excerpt)
3	"Mass Political Atitudes and the Survey Response" Chistopher H. Achen
4	*The American Voter*, Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes (excerpt) Exam 1 is due by Sunday at 11:59 pm
5	**Part 2: Equality, Participation, and Public Opinion** - Demographics and Political Resources
6	"Continuing the Collective Action Dilemma: The Survival of Voluntary Associations in the United States" by Shaun Bevan
7	"Citizen Activity: Who participates, What do they say?"
9	Group Characteristics and Social Networks Exam 2 is due by Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Week	Topic
10	**Part 3: Media Influence, Social Determinants, and Social Movements** **Media Impact on Perception** "Say it With Pictures" by Doris Graber
11	"Public Opinion: The Beginning of Ideology" William Schneider
12	"Vote Choice and Electoral Decisions" Bonneau et al.
13	Suffrage, Liberation, and Social Movements
14	Historical and Current Social Movements in response to economic hardship
16	Exam week