POS 3182 Florida Politics

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Session: Fall 2012 M, W & F
Credit Hours: 3
Class Room: CL1 103
Class Time: 8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Office Hours: M&W 10:30 - 1:30 and online by email or in person by appointment

Course Description and Goals

In Florida Politics we will look at the role that the Sunshine State takes in formally and authoritatively allocating societal values and resources. We will examine political culture, the state constitution, political institutions and behaviors, and local government in Florida. We will analyze the role of state government in managing conflict over what values should be implemented as public policy. And we will look at politics and policy in Florida to see how and why politics and policy operate as they do in our own state contrasted to others. Another major goal is to have students explore diversity within Florida politics and policy focusing on contemporary minority American culture as defined by race, age, ethnicity, gender, social and economic class, age, sexual orientation and physical ability. In addition students will learn about the diverse regions in Florida. A final goal is to have students learn more about current Florida politics and policy.

Required Texts

1 Susan MacManus, Aubrey Jewett, David Bonanza and Thomas Dye (MJBD), *Politics in Florida*, 3rd ed., Tallahassee: Florida Institute of Government Press, 2011
2. Kevin Hill, Susan MacManus, & Dario Moreno (HMM), Eds. *Florida Politics: Ten Media Markets, One Powerful State*, Tallahassee: Florida Institute of Government Press, 2004

Evaluation

20% Media Market Analysis –Your paper will be due on an assigned date corresponding to a media market covered in the Florida Politics: Ten Media Markets book. You must write a 2000 to 4000 word (double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font; word count includes tables) summary and analysis of that media market. Start with an introduction that previews your analysis in the four sections that follow. In the first section summarize your chapter – include the demographics, culture/history, politics (party registration, turnout, voting etc.) and overall power of your media market based on the book chapter (refer to the study guide for this section). Next update the statistical data for your market including more recent elections (04, 06 & 10 Senate, 06 & 10 Governor, 04 & 08 President), current voter registration by party and by race/ethnicity (October 2012 book closing), 2008 and 2010 general election voter turnout and updated census estimates for population and race/ethnicity). Present the updated data in tables for clarity (county by county and market total with both number and percent for each) and then describe the data in the tables also making note of changes that have occurred since the book came out in 2004. Third summarize and analyze at least two current political/policy issues using reputable internet sources (i.e. local government or established media sites from that market). Finally conclude your analysis by evaluating that region's political and policy future (i.e. stronger/weaker, better/worse, new/old issues, changes on the horizon or more of the same) – be specific and back up your opinion. Give your paper a title page with an appropriate title and include the word count. Also after the introductory paragraph give each of the four sections a title subheading to keep the paper organized. Cite your sources (the chapter from the text and outside sources) at least every paragraph and give full references at the end. Strongest grades go to papers that exceed expectations for quality and quantity.

10% Internet Learning Paper – Your paper will be due on an assigned date corresponding to a topic covered in a chapter from the D, J & M book. You must write a 1000 to 2000 word (double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font) paper on that topic from information found on one or more of the listed internet sites (found in the syllabus outline and at the end of each chapter of D, J & M) associated with your topic (you may also use an additional appropriate site of your choosing if you like). You should browse all the sites assigned for your day and then describe in detail and reflect on three things you learned about Florida politics and/or policy from those sites that extend your knowledge beyond what is found in the class text. To go beyond the class text usually requires that you be specific – for instance if assigned the legislature a student might look at specific bills or specific members in the current legislature and write about them. Give your paper a title page with an appropriate title (include word count) and after the introduction (which should give the theme of the paper and tie your topic to the DJM book chapter) give each of the three sections a title subheading to keep the paper organized. Finish with a conclusion about what you learned overall. Cite your sources at least every paragraph and give full references at the end for the complete web address where you find your information. Strongest grades go to papers that exceed expectations for quality and quantity.

10% Participation / Current Events - Your participation grade consists of attending class and participating in class discussion – especially on the day your media market analysis is due. You will also present a current event to the class concerning Florida politics or policy. You will be assigned a date for your presentations and it should last 1-2 minutes. Nothing written needs to be turned in but you should prepare what you are going to say. Your articles should come from a major Florida newspaper and have been written within one week of your presentation. You should give source, title and author and summarize your article, explain how it fits into the course material, and conclude by giving your opinion about the issue or event and explain why you feel the way you do.

60% Three Examinations - Closed book, non-cumulative tests covering all material from lecture, discussion, and information from all required texts. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions from the DJM text and short answer questions from the HMM text. Bring a brown scantron and pencil.

Policies

1. Attendance is strongly encouraged and is part of your participation grade. I take roll every class. Students who have perfect attendance in all classes preceding an exam are eligible for a bonus of from 1-3 points on the exam.
2. In fairness to students who show up for exams, make up exams are given only when the student contacts the professor before or on the day of the exam and a verifiable extenuating circumstance exists (such as illness with a physician's note or an accident with a police report). Make up exams for other reasons are at the discretion of the professor and are subject to a full letter grade penalty.
3. Late assignments are accepted up to one week from the due date but will incur a ten-point penalty.
4. This class is on a ten point grading scale with no plus/minus grades: A 100-90; B 89-80; C 79-70, D 69-60, F 59-0.
5. Disabled students registered with Disability Services will be given accommodations.
6. I expect professional and ethical behavior from my students in class and on tests and assignments. I enforce the UCF policies pertaining to academic honesty and students should familiarize themselves with the Golden Rule. Also please be courteous to fellow students by being on time (be unobtrusive if you are late), turning off cell phones (no texting), paying attention and staying on task if you have a laptop (not random browsing and emailing), and by staying quiet except when participating.

Outline

This outline may change during the semester. It is your responsibility to come to class and keep informed.

Date	Day	Topic/Assignment	Date	Day	Topic/Assignment
8/20	M	Introduction	10/15	M	NE Florida and Jax HMM 6
8/22	W	Florida Political Culture MJBD 1	10/17	W	Continued
8/24	F	Florida Overview HMM 1	10/19	F	Courts and Crime MJBD 8
8/27	M	Continued	10/22	M	Tampa Bay HMM 7
8/29	W	Florida's Constitution MJBD 2	10/24	W	Continued
8/31	F	The Constitution of Florida (Online)	10/26	F	**Test 2**
9/3	M	**Labor Day Holiday**	10/29	M	Taxing and Spending MJBD 9 **Last day to withdraw**
9/5	W	FL Constitution Continued	10/31	W	Central Florida HMM 8
9/7	F	FL Constitution Continued	11/2	F	Continued
9/10	M	Public Opinion MJBD 3	11/5	M	Local Government in Florida MJBD 10
9/12	W	Florida’s Black Voters HMM 2	11/7	W	Continued
9/14	F	Continued	11/9	F	Southwest Florida HMM 9
9/17	M	Parties and Elections MJBD 4	11/12	M	**Veterans Day Holiday**
9/19	W	Florida’s Hispanic Voters HMM 3	11/14	W	Local Government Continued
9/21	F	Continued	11/16	F	Education, Social Welfare and Health Care MJBD 11
9/24	M	**Test 1**	11/19	M	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast HMM 10
9/26	W	Interest Groups MJBD 5	11/21	W	Continued
9/28	F	West Florida HMM 4	11/23	F	**Thanksgiving Holiday**
10/1	M	Continued	11/26	M	Economic Development, the Environment and Growth Management & MJBD 12
10/3	W	The Florida Legislature MJBD - 6	11/28	W	South Florida HMM 11
10/5	F	Continued	11/30	F	Continued
10/8	M	North to Central Florida HMM 5	12/3	M	Continued
10/10	W	Continued	12/5	W	**Final Exam 8:00 am**
10/12	F	Florida's Executive Branch MJBD 7			

Suggested Internet Sites for each major topic
(See MJBD book for additional web sites at the end of each chapter)
Use for Internet Learning Papers

Florida's Political Culture http://www.census.gov/ Go to Population Finder or Quick Facts and select Florida http://www.flheritage.com/ http://www.sayfiereview.com/	Florida Executive Branch http://www.myflorida.com Go to Gvt, Executive and browse Governor, Cabinet and Agencies
Florida's Constitution http://www.leg.state.fl.us/ Go to Statutes, Constitution, & Laws of FL http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.html Read Constitutional Amendments under Voters http://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/Constitution/	Courts and Crime http://www.myflorida.com Go to Gvt, Judicial Branch and browse FL State Courts http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/ http://www.dc.state.fl.us/
Public Opinion http://www.leadershipflorida.org/ (Pubs then survey) http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x271.xml (Florida) http://www.realclearpolitics.com/polls/ (Florida) http://www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm (Browse FAPS reports 1999-2004)	Taxing and Spending http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/ http://www.floridataxwatch.org/ http://peoplesbudget.state.fl.us/
Parties and Elections http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.html For the Voters (especially Voter Info – election results - and Registration) http://www.rpof.org/ and http://www.fladems.com/	Local Government in Florida http://www.flcities.com/ Legislative/Advocacy; & also Publications , Civic Education, and then read "My City" http://www.fl-counties.com/ About Florida Counties & Advocacy http://www.floridaspecialdistricts.org/ http://www.fasd.com/
Interest Groups and Power http://www.floridatrend.com/ Read Current Issue and Top Rank http://www.aif.com/ http://www.flchamber.com/ http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.html Read Candidates, Campaign Finance, Committees	Education, Social Welfare and Health Care http://www.fldoe.org/ http://www.feaweb.org/ http://www.state.fl.us/cf_web/ http://doh.state.fl.us/
Florida Legislature http://www.myflorida.com Go to Government and legislature and browse House and Senate sites	Economic Development, the Environment and Growth Management http://www.dep.state.fl.us/ http://www.floridajobs.org/ http://www.panthersociety.org/ http://www.savethemanatee.org/