POS 3182 Florida Politics

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Office Hours: T&R 10:30 am-12:30 pm or online by email

Session: Spring 2014 T & R
Credit Hours: 3
Class Room: CB1 120
Class Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Course Description

Florida Politics examines politics in the "sunshine State" focusing on foundations, institutions, processes and policy. We look at the demographic and economic environment of Florida as well as Florida's constitution and the role that Florida plays in the federal system. We examine participation in Florida and local politics, the role of political parties and the conduct of state and local elections. We explore Florida's political institutions including the legislature, executive branch, bureaucracy, and courts. We also investigate the structure, function, governance and challenges facing local government in Florida. Finally we analyze and evaluate Florida state and local policy including civil rights and liberties, criminal justice, taxation, education, health, welfare, economic development, growth management, and the environment.

Goals

1. Knowledge: Students should understand basic facts and concepts related to Florida politics and policy.
2. Comparative Approach: Students will examine Florida's political institutions, behaviors and policies compared to other states and explain similarities and differences.
3. Public Policy: Students will evaluate the role of Florida government in managing conflict over what values should be implemented as public policy in a variety of areas.
4. Diversity: Students will explore how diversity impacts Florida politics and policy focusing on contemporary minority American culture as defined by race, ethnicity, gender, social and economic class, age, sexual orientation and physical ability.
5. Current Issues: Students will learn more about current Florida politics and policy and make a presentation to the class.

Required Texts

1. Susan MacManus, Aubrey Jewett, Thomas Dye & David Bonanza (MJDB), *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

Class Website

This course has a class website. Under the Modules section you will find lecture notes corresponding to the major topics in the main text and study guides for the media markets. You will also find the 6 online module quizzes that you will take to help you prepare for the in-class exams. The course website will have your specific topic assignments for papers including due dates, details about writing the papers, and instructions for uploading the papers.

Evaluation

20% Media Market Analysis – You will be assigned a specific media market covered in the *Florida Politics: Ten Media Markets* book and a specific due date that will correspond with the date we cover that particular market in class as detailed in the course outline. You must write a 3500 to 5000 word summary, update, and analysis of that media market. Your assigned market, due date, and detailed instructions will be provided on the course website soon. You will upload the paper on the course website to turn it in.

10% Extension of Knowledge Paper – You will be assigned a specific topic that is covered in the *Politics in Florida* book and a specific due date that will correspond with the date we cover that particular topic in class as detailed in the course outline. You must write a 1500 to 2500 word paper using assigned internet sites that extends your knowledge of the topic beyond what is covered in the class text. Your assigned topic, due date, and detailed instructions will be provided on the course website soon. You will upload the paper on the course website to turn it in.

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.

12% Online Module Quizzes – Six online quizzes from the materials found in the books and on the website. Each pair of quizzes will help you prepare for an in-class exam. You may take each quiz twice. If you take it twice you will get the highest score of the two attempts as long as you get a 60 or higher on the first attempt. If you get less than 60 on the first attempt and take it a 2nd time you will get the average of the two scores.

48% 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 Politics in Florida text and short answer questions from the *Florida's Politics: Ten Media Markets* 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 paper assignments are accepted up to one week from their due date but will incur a ten-point penalty. Online quizzes must be taken by the due date.

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. Students registered with UCF Disability Services will be given needed 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.

Day	Date	Assignment	Day	Date	Assignment
T	1/7	Course Introduction Start Module 1 Florida Political Culture MJDB 1	T	3/4	**Spring Break – Use SPF 15 or higher!**
R	1/9	**Class cancelled**. **Dr. Jewett at SPSA conference**. Read Introduction and Florida Overview HMM 1 – work on Module 1	R	3/6	**Spring Break – Use SPF 15 or higher!**
T	1/14	Florida's Constitution MJDB 2	T	3/11	Tampa Bay HMM 7
R	1/16	Florida Constitution continued	R	3/13	Courts and Crime continued
M	1/20	**Module 1 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**	F	3/14	**Module 4 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**
T	1/21	Start Module 2 Public Opinion MJDB 3	T	3/18	**Midterm Exam 2**
R	1/23	Florida's Black Voters HMM 2	T	3/18	**Withdrawal Deadline.** Last day to withdraw without grade penalty
T	1/28	Parties and Elections MJDB 4	R	3/20	Start Module 5 Taxing and Spending MJDB 9
R	1/30	Florida's Hispanic Voters HMM 3	T	3/25	Central Florida HMM 8
F	1/31	**Module 2 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**	R	3/27	Local Government in Florida MJDB 10
T	2/4	**Midterm Exam 1**	T	4/1	Southwest Florida HMM 9
R	2/6	Start Module 3 Interest Groups MJDB 5	W	4/2	**Module 5 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**
T	2/11	West Florida HMM 4	R	4/3	Start Module 6 Education, Social Welfare and Health Care MJDB 11
R	2/13	The Florida Legislature MJDB 6	T	4/8	Palm Beach/Treasure Coast HMM 10
T	2/18	North to Central Florida HMM 5	R	4/10	The Environment and Growth Management MJDB 12
W	2/19	**Module 3 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**	T	4/15	South Florida HMM 11
R	2/20	Start Module 4 Florida's Executive Branch MJDB 7	R	4/17	The Environment continued
T	2/25	NE Florida and Jax HMM 6	F	4/18	**Module 6 Quiz Must Be Taken by 11 pm**
R	2/27	Courts and Crime MJDB 8	T	4/29	**Final Exam 8:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.**

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

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 / Referendum 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/ http://www.flsheriffs.org/
Public Opinion http://www.leadershipflorida.org/ (Programs then Sunshine State Survey) http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-centers/polling-institute/florida/ http://www.realclearpolitics.com/polls/ (Florida) http://survey.coss.fsu.edu/FAPS/index.htm (Browse FAPS reports 1979-2004)	Taxing and Spending http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/ http://www.floridataxwatch.org/ http://letsgettowork.state.fl.us/ (Budget) http://floridafiscalportal.state.fl.us/
Parties and Elections http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.html For the Voters, Media Room & Statistics http://www.rpof.org/ and http://www.floridadems.org/	Local Government in Florida http://www.myflorida.com/ Go to Gvt, Local Gvt http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/ Legislative/Advocacy & Center for Municipal Research http://www.fl-counties.com/ About Florida Counties & Advocacy http://www.fasd.com/ http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/special-district-information-program
Interest Groups and Power http://www.floridatrend.com/ 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.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/charter_schools/ http://www.feaweb.org/ http://www.myflfamilies.com/ http://doh.state.fl.us/
Florida Legislature http://www.myflorida.com Go to Government and Legislature and browse House, Senate & Member 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/ http://www.flconservation.org/