POS 3182W Florida Politics
Fall 2017 Syllabus

Contact Information

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Course Description

Florida Politics examines politics in the Sunshine State focusing on foundations, institutions, processes and policy. We look at the changing demographic and economic environment of Florida, the state constitution, political culture and public opinion. We examine participation in state and local politics, the role of interest groups and political parties and the conduct of state and local elections. We explore Florida's governmental 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 state and local policy in the including criminal justice, land use, economic development, transportation, growth management, environment, civil rights, education, health, welfare and taxing and spending.

Goals

1. Knowledge: Students will understand and apply information about the political foundations, institutions, processes, and public policy of Florida.

2. Comparative Approach: Students will look at politics and policy in Florida to see how and why politics operates in our state as contrasted to other states.

3. Extension: Students will examine websites related to Florida politics and policy and analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information that goes beyond the class text.

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, gender identity, and physical ability.

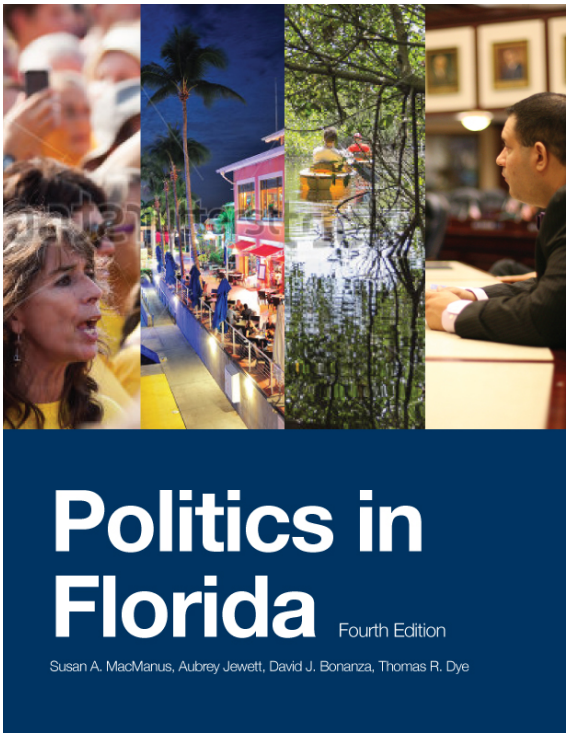
5. Political Geography: Students will examine Florida to see how politics, policy and political culture vary in different regions, markets and counties within the state.

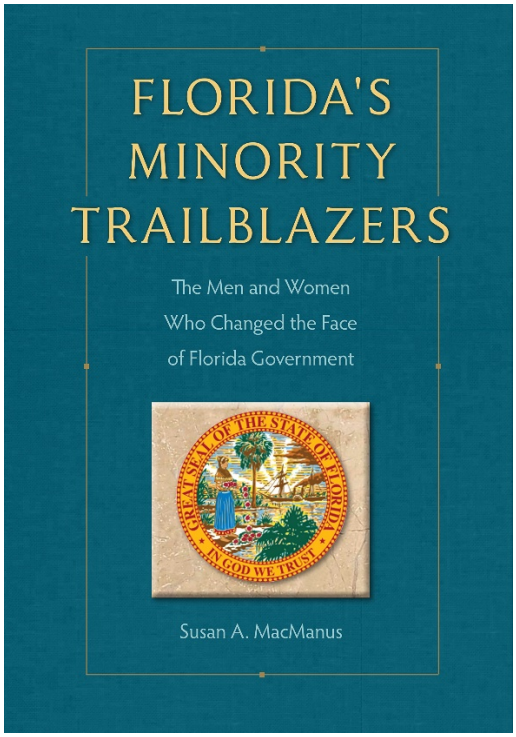
6. Current Issues: Students will find, summarize, analyze, and express thoughtful opinions about current politics and policy in Florida.

Required Texts

1. MacManus, Susan A., Aubrey Jewett, David J. Bonanza, and Thomas R. Dye. 2015. *Politics in Florida*, 4th ed. Sarasota, FL: Peppertree. ISBN-13: 9781614933816

2. MacManus, Susan A., *Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government*, 2017. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. ISBN-13: 978-0813062938





We will be using two books for this class and both are available new, used or for rent (and as e-books if you want instant access and a cheaper price). They should both be available at the on campus and off campus book stores and online. If you wish to get your book from an online retailer here are some options (these are just suggestions – you may get your books wherever you like).

For *Politics in Florida*:

The print version of Politics in Florida 4th edition can be found at the campus bookstore and off-campus bookstores or ordered from various websites. You should purchase or rent a new or used print copy if you are not very good with technology since you will have to download and install some new software in order to get an electronic version.

UCF Barnes and Noble (you will need to enter the class info into the drop down boxes): http://ucf.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=16552

Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Politics-Florida-Fourth-Susan-MacManus/dp/1614933812/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1451397672&sr=1-2&keywords=politics+in+florida+4th+edition

E-version

If you prefer the convenience of the e-version you can download an encrypted version of the book. If you do not have the proper reading app/software already installed on your device (laptop, desktop, tablet, etc.) you will need to download the free software first and then download the book. If you are not very tech savvy then you should probably buy or rent the print copy of the book. I am not a technology expert and cannot help you with downloading the software or the book or getting them to work properly after you purchase them.

First, you will need to download Adobe Digital Reader in order to open and read the book (this is different than just the normal Adobe program you likely have on your computer). You can download the Adobe Digital Reader for free from the Adobe website - you may have to restart your device after downloading to complete the installation: http://www.adobe.com/solutions/ebook/digital-editions/download.html

Second, purchase and download the e-book (which will be in encrypted PDF): https://www.completebook.com/products/politics-in-florida-fourth-edition-by-macmanus-susan-a/variants/2370006788973

For *Florida's Minority Trailblazers*:

You can buy or rent new or used from the UCF bookstore or buy a hard copy or Kindle version from Amazon (or get it from wherever else you like).

UCF Barnes and Noble (you will need to enter the class info into the drop down boxes): http://ucf.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=16552

Amazon (the e-book is the Kindle version which can be read with the free Kindle App): https://www.amazon.com/Floridas-Minority-Trailblazers-Government-Politics/dp/0813062934

Evaluation

6 Modules – 76% of your total grade. Each module consists of 2 graded activities: Chapter Quiz and Extend, Update & Discuss. Each module will usually cover 2 chapters from the Politics in Florida text. You will have about two weeks to do each module.

Chapter Quiz – 36% of total grade. Each quiz will usually have 50 questions covering material from the texts and the module. You will normally have 90 minutes to take the quiz. You may take the quiz a second time to improve your score. The questions are drawn from a larger quiz bank I have constructed so while a few questions may be the same on a 2nd attempt, most will be different. You should read the chapters and study before starting the quiz as you will not have time to look up every answer. All 6 quizzes count towards your final grade and except for extraordinary circumstances I will not reopen a quiz after it closes.

Extend, Update & Discuss – 40% of total grade. Extend, Update & Discuss will include several steps. First you will visit several websites tied to the Module readings and then describe, analyze and reflect on several things you learned about Florida politics and policy from those sites that extends your knowledge beyond what is found in the text (900-1200 words). Next you will update information from the Module readings by looking up and writing a 350-500 word current event. You will then put your Extend and Update into one MS Word document and copy paste it into the appropriate discussion as a single post.

Finally you must engage in discussion with your fellow classmates by responding to their knowledge extension and current event. The discussion will require a minimum of three postings each module: the initial posting of your paper and then at least two postings responding to your fellow students. You should attempt to engage in professional college level discussion with your classmates. Highest grades go to students who exceed my expectations for quantity and quality of their papers and their discussion with classmates. Two additional postings is the minimum to get a C on that part of the assignment. You will need 8 or more (depending on quality and length) additional postings to get the highest possible score on discussing with classmates.

To grade discussion I have developed a rubric (scoring guidelines). Each discussion is worth up to 100 points: 50 points are possible for knowledge extension, 30 points for the current event, and 20 points for discussing things with your classmates. In addition there will be a 10 point penalty for each day the initial posting is late. So 10 points off for one day late and 20 points off for two days late and so on until the module closes. Once the module closes you will not be able to post further and I will not accept your postings.

Florida Election Analysis - 24% of your total grade. You will write a research paper on the 2016 U.S. senate race and presidential race in Florida. Your analysis should be 3500 to 5000 words long, double-spaced with Times New Roman font and will have the

following six sections: an introduction that puts the races in context and lays out how the paper will proceed; an overview of the Florida primary election including major events and results for each race and an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the winning primary candidates from each party going into the general election; an assessment of the general election campaigns in Florida for both offices including major themes, issues and events and an assessment of accuracy of the pre-election polls for each race; analysis of the voting and turnout results statewide and by region/county; analysis of the exit polls including the make-up of the electorate and support from various groups; and a conclusion that summarizes why the winning candidate in each race won (and loser lost) and a projection for what these elections tell us about Florida's reputation as a swing state in future elections. More details will be available on the course website as the semester progresses. You should start the paper while we are working on the modules but will also have several weeks to work on the paper after the modules are over. The Florida Election Analysis will be due no later than Wednesday 12/6 at 11:00 p.m. Late papers will be accepted until Friday, 12/8 at 11:00 pm – but will incur a 10 point per day late penalty.

Policies

1. UCF and I are committed to providing access and inclusion to all students. Students with a disability who register with UCF Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/) will be given accommodation as determined by UCF SAS.

2. I follow and enforce the UCF policies pertaining to academic honesty and integrity and expect professional student conduct. See the UCF policies established in the Golden Rule (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) if you are unfamiliar (particularly the section on Student Academic Behavior Standards).

3. Online courses require students to be self-motivated and do work on a regular basis without being reminded of assignments and due dates. The average student can expect to put in 12-15 hours a module on this course if they want to do well. You will be reading 2 chapters from the main text and additional information on Florida political geography in each module. You can also expect that you will write 2000 words or more each module (counting initial postings and discussions with others) if you want to do well.

4. Late assignments will not be accepted once a quiz, discussion or module closes (as mentioned above I will take your initial paper posting on discussion late with a 10 point per day penalty but once the module closes that will be it). Do not wait until the last minute to do assignments. Computer problems and Internet connection problems will happen. They are not acceptable excuses for missing due dates and deadlines. Due times for graded assignments are usually 11 pm Eastern Standard Time. I give a 59 minute grace period until 11:59 pm before I start assessing the late penalty.

5. I will drop your lowest Extend, Update & Discuss score when I compute your final grade. Since I am not accepting late assignments after a module closes this will provide you a measure of protection should something happen that prevents you from writing a

paper (computer glitch, illness, vacation etc.) or should you do poorly on a paper and want to improve. I will not drop any quiz scores, so you must do all 6 quizzes.

6. If you have questions about the course of a general nature do not e-mail me initially. Instead post your question in the Discussions section of the web site. Once in Discussions select the topic “Questions for Professor Jewett” and then click in the “Reply” box and type in your question and then hit “Post Reply.” You may have to wait up to 48 hours for a response but I am usually much quicker than that. You should review this section before asking your question as someone else may have already asked it. Of course if your problem is personal (grade related for instance) or involves not being able to get on the site (and hence unable to get to Discussions) feel free to e-mail me at my normal e-mail address.

7. If you would like to seek the help of fellow students go to Discussions and select the topic “Students Seeking Help from Students” and post your question as above. This can be a technical question about computer problems or a subject matter question. I will give extra credit to students who help others!

Grading Scale

This class is on a 10 point grading scale with no plus minus grades.

100-90 A (Outstanding or excellent work)

89-80 B (Good, above average work)

79-70 C (Average work)

69-60 D (Below average, poor work)

59-0 F (Unacceptable work or missed assignment)

Assignment Due Dates

Pretest due by Friday 8/25 at 5:00 pm EST.

Faculty members 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 following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday August 25th 5:00 pm EST. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Go to Quizzes and click on “Pretest” and then “Take the Quiz.” You have 1 hour to take the pretest. Please do not study beforehand or look up answers when taking the pretest – if you do not know the answer then just make your best guess. I want to get an honest assessment of how much you know about the course material before we get started (so

please do not just take 5 minutes for the whole quiz and randomly hit answers either – actually read the questions and see if you know the answer). Once you answer all the questions hit "Submit Quiz." The pretest quiz does not count towards your final grade.

Module 1 Florida's Political Culture and Constitution: Quiz due by Monday 9/4 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 9/5 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 9/7 11:00 pm

For Module 1 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 1 Political Culture and 2 Constitution

Labor Day Holiday Monday 9/4 PLEASE NOTE: JUST BECAUSE SOME DUE DATES MAY FALL OVER THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN TO DO THE ASSIGNMENT!

Module 2 Public Opinion, Parties and Elections: Quiz due by Monday 9/18 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 9/19 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 9/21 11:00 pm

For Module 2 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 3 Public Opinion and 4 Parties and Elections

Module 3 Interest Groups and the Legislature: Quiz due by Monday 10/2 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 10/3 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 10/5 11:00 pm

For Module 3 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 5 Interest Groups and 6 Legislature

Module 4 Executive Branch and Courts and Crime: Quiz due by Monday 10/16 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 10/17 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 10/19 11:00 pm

For Module 4 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 7 Executive Branch and 8 Courts and Crimes

Withdrawal Deadline: Monday 10/30 11:59 p.m.

Module 5 Taxing, Spending and Local Government: Quiz due by Monday 10/30 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 10/31 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 11/2 11:00 pm

For Module 5 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 9 Taxing and Spending and 10 Local Government

Module 6 Education, Welfare and Health and Environment and Growth Management: Quiz due by Monday 11/13 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 11/14 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 11/16 11:00 pm

For Module 6 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 11 Education, Social Welfare and Health Care and 12 Environment, Growth Management, and Economic Development

Thanksgiving Holiday Thursday and Friday 11/23 & 11/24

Florida Election Analysis: Due by Wednesday 12/6 at 11pm (Friday 12/8 at 11 pm is the last date to turn in a late research paper)

Term Ends: Saturday December 9

Getting Started

Go to the home page, go to Quizzes and click on “Pretest” and then “Take the Quiz” (as described above to document your participation in the course). After that, to begin the graded part of the course, click on Modules and then read and follow the instructions for Module 1: Florida’s Political Culture and Constitution.