Syllabus
Florida Politics
POS 3182 0M01
Spring 2024

Additional Information from Official Schedule of Classes

Credit Hours: 3 (3, 0)

Prerequisites: POS 2041 or C.I.

Class Meeting Days and Time: Face-to-face sessions on Tue 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm and additional work on the course website normally available 24 hours a day

Class Location: PSY 0105 The course website can be found at www.webcourses.ucf.edu.

Modality: This is an "M" (Mixed Mode) course with face-to-face sessions once a week and other work completed online.

Contact Information

Instructor / Email: Dr. Aubrey Jewett aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Office: Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) 302 E

Office Hours: Tue and Th 9:30 am and 11:00 am or by appointment (online by e-mail or via Zoom also available - to set up a Zoom conference please email me, and I will send you a link)

Phone: Political Science Main Office 407-823-2608;

Graduate Teaching Assistant / Email: George Kotlik george.kotlik@ucf.edu

Public Description of Course

Information Published in the UCF Undergraduate Catalog: Examines the foundations of Florida government and political behavior, political institutions, and public policy.

Course Scope and Purpose: 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. The purpose of the course is to teach students about Florida politics and prepare students to follow, analyze and participate in Florida politics.

Course Goals (Student Learning Outcomes)

Students who successfully complete Florida Politics should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic facts, definitions and concepts related to the political foundations, institutions, processes, and public policy of Florida.

2. Compare Florida political institutions and behaviors to identify and explain similarities and differences with other states and over time.

3. Describe Florida political geography (state, regions, markets, districts, and counties) and its effect on politics, policy, and political culture.

4. 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. Find, summarize, analyze, and express thoughtful opinions about current political and policy events in Florida.

6. Discuss Florida political and policy issues in a professional academic manner and show respect for people who may hold different views.

Course Materials/Resources

1. MacManus, Susan A., Aubrey Jewett, David J. Bonanza, and Thomas R. Dye. 2019. *Politics in Florida*, 5th ed. Tallahassee: John Scott Daily Florida Institute of Government at Florida State University. ISBN-13: 9780964922785

This 5th edition is available at the Barnes and Noble campus bookstore or for direct purchase as an inexpensive ($14.99) electronic PDF version https://www.lulu.com/shop/david-bonanza-and-aubrey-jewett-and-susan-macmanus/politics-in-florida/ebook/product-176g4yry.html?q=Politics+in+Florida&page=1&pageSize=4 or as a traditional print paperback (much more expensive) https://www.lulu.com/shop/david-bonanza-and-aubrey-jewett-and-susan-macmanus/politics-in-florida-5th-edition/paperback/product-1569r4pp.html?q=Politics+in+Florida&page=1&pageSize=4 .

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: 9780813062938

You can purchase this book from many locations including Barnes and Noble (the campus bookstore), Amazon, and many other college booksellers including the publisher who offers a print version and several different e-versions https://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813062938.

Assessment, Grading Procedures, Expectations and Support

Organization of this Mixed Mode Course

This is course is mixed mode. During face-to-face sessions I will lecture, take questions on material, and we will discuss Florida politics. Quizzes will be taken online. Writing assignments (updates) will be submitted online, and discussion of your written work will occur online.

Assignments and Grading Weights:

6 Online Modules – 100% of your total grade. Each module consists of 2 graded activities: Chapter Quiz and Update & Discuss. Each module will usually cover 2 chapters from the Politics in Florida text and additional readings from Florida's Minority Trailblazers. You will have about two weeks to do each module.

Quizzes (6 taken online) – 60% 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.

Update & Discuss (3 done online) – 40% of total grade. Update & Discuss will include several steps. First, update information from that Module by finding a current event article and writing a 350-500-word Update. Next, copy and paste your update into the appropriate discussion as a single post. Finally, engage in scholarly, professional, and substantive discussion with your fellow classmates by responding to their Update and replying to students who post about your work (minimum two additional posts with 8 or more quality posts required for the highest score). PLEASE READ EACH MODULE FOR THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF EACH UPDATE AND DISCUSSION.

Grades and Grading Scale: Students can view grades in Mygrades. I use a ten-point grading scale.

100-90 A (Outstanding, superior work)
89-80 B (Excellent, above average work)
79-70 C (Good, average work)
69-60 D (Below average or incomplete work)
59-0 F (Poor work or missed assignment)

Missed Quizzes, Missed or Late Assignments, and Make-Up Policy:

- Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities – Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

- Religious Observances – Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf

- Quizzes – All 6 quizzes count towards your final grade. I do not drop any quiz grades and quizzes automatically lock at the due date and time. Under normal circumstance I will not reopen the quiz. If you miss a quiz and want a chance to make up the quiz email me as soon as possible (normally within 24 hours). If you have a verifiable extenuating circumstance (i.e. illness with a doctor's note, accident with a police report, or death in the family with documentation) I will let you make up one quiz with no grade penalty. You should complete the quiz in a reasonable amount of time (usually within one week). If you do not have a verifiable extenuating circumstance (you forgot, overslept, were too busy etc.) I may allow you one make up in a reasonable amount of time (usually within one week) if you contact me quickly (usually within 24 hours), take responsibility for what happened, and have been showing a good faith effort to complete previous work. However, I deduct ten points from the late quiz score in fairness to classmates who completed the quiz on time.

- Update & Discuss – You will be assigned 3 Update and Discuss assignments. Once the module closes you will not be able to post a late paper or post further comments in the discussion. If you have an extraordinary situation which causes you to miss your assigned Update & Discuss you may email me with the pertinent information, and I will decide based on being fair to you but also to all the other students in the class that are meeting the deadlines. You may post your Update paper up to two days late after the initial deadline, but 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. Discussion with others is available until the module closes and will not be reopened.

Workload and Deadlines: This course is an upper-level political science elective and I have high expectations for my students. The average student can expect to put in at least 12-15 hours a module on this course if they want to do well. You will usually be reading 2 chapters from the main text and multiple sections from the auxiliary text each module. You can also expect that you will write 1000 words or more (counting initial postings and discussions with others) for each assigned Update and Discuss if you are seeking a strong grade. 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 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time. After that, I start assessing the late penalty on the initial Extend and Update posting.

Professional Communication & Online Etiquette: I expect professional communication whether face to face, by email, or in online discussions. When communicating with me, please address me by my title (Dr. Jewett or Prof. Jewett), politely explain the purpose of your communication, courteously provide evidence or background information as appropriate, and respectfully ask your question or make your statement or request. DO NOT make demands or unsubstantiated claims, issue threats or accusations, or question my motives. During discussion DO NOT personally attack other students (or the professor) for their opinions. Political disagreements are normal, but be scholarly and civil, focus on the material, explain your position calmly and rationally, and show respect for the sincerely held beliefs of others.

Questions for Professor Jewett: Since this course is mixed mode, you can always ask questions during the face-to-face sessions. Additionally, online, if you have general questions about the course or material 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." I have linked my email to this discussion forum so it will forward to me almost immediately, but by posting the question here (and my answer) we will allow other students to gain more information (if you have a question, chances are another student also has the same question). You should review this section before asking your question as someone else may have already asked it. Of course, if your problem is personal (related to your health or to your quiz or discussion grade 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.

Instructor Response Time to Online Questions: Under normal circumstance I will respond to a posted question or an email within 24 hours. Quizzes are automatically graded, and you will receive immediate feedback on your score. I seek to provide substantive feedback in the discussion to your initial Extend and Update post within 24 hours of the due date. Once a module closes, I typically have Extend, Update & Discuss graded and provide suggestions to improve within 48 hours.

Seeking Help from Other Students: 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.

Students Needing Technical Support: If you need technical support with Webcourses you can go to https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/. Phone support is available at 407-823-0407. Email support is available at webcourses@ucf.edu.

UCF Core Syllabus Statements

Academic Integrity:

I expect ethical academic behavior from all my students. Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

AI Tools - The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, via website, app, or any other access, is not permitted in this class. Representing work created by AI as your own is plagiarism and will be prosecuted as such.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity <http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:

I uphold and enforce academic standards. Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. 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, 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.

Course Accessibility:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement:

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their 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. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <https://centralflorida-prod.modolabs.net/student/safety/index>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <www.getrave.com/login/ucf> and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active Military Status:

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.

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 https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Assignment Due Dates (Due Times are 11:59 EST pm unless otherwise noted)

I try to follow the posted schedule. However, this outline may change during the semester due to unforeseen events or for pedagogical reasons. It is your responsibility to read class announcements and emails and keep informed.

Pretest due by Friday 1/12 at 5:00 pm EST.

Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. 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 Jan 12 at 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.

Martin Luther King Day Holiday Monday 1/15 PLEASE NOTE: JUST BECAUSE SOME DUE DATES MAY FALL OVER THE HOLIDAY DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN TO DO THE ASSIGNMENT!

Module 1 Florida's Political Culture and Constitution: Quiz due by Monday 1/22; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 1/23; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 1/25

For Module 1 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 1 Political Culture and 2 Constitution (face-to-face lecture Jan 9 & 16)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers chapters 1, 2 and 7 (pages 1-30 and 524-544)

Module 2 Public Opinion, Parties and Elections: Quiz due by Monday 2/5; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 2/6; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 2/8

For Module 2 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 3 Public Opinion and 4 Parties and Elections (face-to-face lecture Jan 23 & 30)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers pages 32-107 (12 Trailblazers from the Florida House)

Module 3 Interest Groups and the Legislature: Quiz due by Monday 2/19; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 2/20; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 2/22

For Module 3 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 5 Interest Groups and 6 Legislature (face-to-face lecture Feb 6 & 13)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers pages 108-202 (13 Trailblazers from the Florida House)

Module 4 Executive Branch and Courts and Crime: Quiz due by Monday 3/4; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 3/5; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 3/7

For Module 4 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 7 Executive Branch and 8 Courts and Crimes (face-to-face lecture Feb 20 & 27)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers pages 203-279 (12 Trailblazers - 10 from the Florida Senate and from 2 legislative leadership)

Spring Break Monday 3/18 to Saturday 3/23

Withdrawal Deadline: Friday 3/29 11:59 p.m.

Module 5 Taxing, Spending and Local Government: Quiz due by Monday 4/1; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 4/2; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 4/4

For Module 5 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 9 Taxing and Spending and 10 Local Government (face-to-face lecture Mar 5, 12, 26)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers pages 280-406 and (14 Trailblazers - 6 from the Executive and 8 from the Judiciary)

Module 6 Education, Welfare and Health and Environment and Growth Management: Quiz due by Wednesday 4/24; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 4/16; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 4/18

For Module 6 please read:

Politics in Florida chapters 11 Education, Social Welfare and Health Care and 12 Environment, Growth Management, Economic Development and Transportation (face-to-face lecture Apr 2, 9 & 16)

Florida's Minority Trailblazers Chapter 6 (pages 407-523: 11 trailblazers from the Florida congressional delegation)

Term Ends: Tuesday April 30

Getting Started

Please come to the face-to-face sessions. For the online portion, please 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.