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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

POS 3122 - State Government and Public Policy

Section: AW60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2024
Class Meeting Location:
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.000000000000000

Instructor Information

Aubrey Jewett
Title: Associate Professor
Office Location: Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) 302 E
Office Hours:
M & W 9-10am via Zoom or by appointment via Zoom (to set up a Zoom conference please email me, and I will send you a link)
Phone: 407-823-2608
Email: Aubrey.Jewett@ucf.edu
Caitlin Concannon
Title: Teaching Assistant
Office Location: Online Only
Office Hours:
Online by appointment via email
Email: Caitlin.Concannon@ucf.edu

Course Description

POS 3122 COS-POLS 3(3,0)State Government and Public Policy: PR: POS 2041 or C.I. A comparative study of American state governments, political processes, and public policies, with emphasis on Florida. Spring.

Course Scope and Purpose: State Government and Public Policy examines politics and policy in the American states with a special focus on comparing Florida with other states. We look at the demographic and economic environment of the states as well as state constitutions and the role of states in the federal system. We study participation in state and local politics, the role of political parties and the conduct of state and local elections. We explore state institutions including the legislature, executive branch, bureaucracy, and courts. We investigate the structure, function,

governance and challenges facing local government in the US. We analyze and evaluate state and local policy including criminal justice, land use, economic development, transportation, growth management, environment, civil rights, education, health, welfare and taxation.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic facts, definitions and concepts related to the political foundations, institutions, and processes of state and local government.

2. Engage in the comparative analytical approach: examine political institutions and behaviors across states and localities in order to identify and explain similarities and differences.

3. Evaluate the role of state and local government in managing conflict over what values should be implemented as public policy in a variety of areas.

4. Explain how and why politics and policy in Florida operate as they do in contrast to other states.

5. Explore how diversity impacts state and local 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.

6. Find, summarize, analyze, and express thoughtful opinions about current state and local politics and policy.

7. Discuss state and local political and policy issues in a professional academic manner and show respect for other people who may hold different views.

Course Materials and Resources

Politics in States and Communities
ISBN: 9780205994724
Authors: Thomas R. Dye and Susan A. MacManus
Publisher: Pearson
Publication Date: 2015
Edition: 15th
Notes: You can purchase the book from many locations including Barnes and Noble (the campus bookstore), Amazon, Chegg and many other college booksellers. You may also purchase directly from Pearson – the digital e-version is inexpensive (less than $45.00) and immediately available. The book is available for sale or rent and as new and used editions.

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

8 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 Dye and MacManus text (the last module has 3 chapters).

Chapter Quiz – 50% of total grade. Each quiz will usually have 50 questions covering material from the Dye and MacManus book. 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 8 quizzes count towards your final grade.

Update & Discuss – 50% 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 using the required template I provide in the module instructions. 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. Discussion with others is open for two days after the Update due date. See the module instructions for the details concerning discussion with classmates and Professor Jewett. You will be assigned to write an update and discuss on 4 modules and the highest 3 will count towards your final grade.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Policies for Course Grade

Missed Quizzes, Missed or Late Assignments and Makeup Work Policy

- Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities – Students who miss exams/assignments because they are representing UCF in authorized events or activities will be offered reasonable opportunity to complete the work with no penalty applied. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with a copy of the Program Verification Form (which lists the names of students participating in the authorized event or activity) prior to the class in which the absence occurs.
- Religious Observances – A student who desires to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith must notify all of his/her instructors at the beginning of the term to be excused from classes to observe the religious holy day. The student is responsible for any

material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to complete any work missed.

- Quizzes – 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 must complete the quiz in a reasonable amount of time (I will set a deadline). 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 (I will set a deadline) as long as 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 score in fairness to classmates who completed the quiz on time.
- Update & Discuss – I will assign you to write an update and discuss on four modules. Your final score will be based on your highest 3 update and discuss scores. This will provide you a measure of protection should something happen that prevents you from writing a paper (computer glitch, illness, work, vacation etc.) or should you do poorly on a paper and want to improve. 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 more than one Update & Discuss you may email me with the pertinent information, and I will decide what to do 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.

Other Policies

Workload and Deadlines: 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 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 each module. You can also expect that you will write 1000 words or more (counting initial postings and discussions with others) for each assigned module if you want to do well. 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 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: 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 received immediate feedback on your score. I seek to provide substantive feedback in the discussion within 24 hours of the due date. Once a module closes I typically have assignments 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.

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) (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.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. 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 mans: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather 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.

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, 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 diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

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

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 Safety
- 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 AED Locations.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to RAVE Mobile Safety 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 from the UCF Police Department, You CAN Survive an Active Shooter.

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 RAVE Mobile Security 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 instructor outside of class.

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

Course Schedule

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.

Date	Details
Fri May 17, 2024	QuizPretest State Government
Mon May 20, 2024	QuizQuiz 1 State Politics and Constitutions
	QuizQuiz 2 Federalism and Participation
Tue May 21, 2024	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 1
	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 2
Thu May 23, 2024	Calendar EventState Module 1 Closes
	Calendar EventState Module 2 Closes

Date	Details
Mon Jun 3, 2024	QuizQuiz 3 State Parties and Legislatures
	QuizQuiz 4 State Governors and Bureaucracy
Tue Jun 4, 2024	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 3
	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 4
Thu Jun 6, 2024	Calendar EventState Module 3 Closes
	Calendar EventState Module 4 Closes
Fri Jun 7, 2024	Calendar EventWithdrawal Deadline
Mon Jun 10, 2024	QuizQuiz 5 State Courts, Criminal Justice, and Civil Rights
	QuizQuiz 6 Local Governance and Participation
Tue Jun 11, 2024	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 5
	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 6
Thu Jun 13, 2024	Calendar EventState Module 5 Closes
	Calendar EventState Module 6 Closes
Mon Jun 17, 2024	QuizQuiz 7 Metro Politics and Community Power
	QuizQuiz 8 State Public Policy
Tue Jun 18, 2024	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 7

Date	Details
	Discussion TopicUpdate & Discussion 8
Thu Jun 20, 2024	Calendar EventState Module 7 Closes
	Calendar EventState Module 8 Closes

Modules

Pretest due by Friday 5/17 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 (Friday 5:00 pm EST), 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. The Pretest will document your academic activity in starting this course.

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 State Politics, Democracy and Constitutions: **Quiz due by Monday 5/20; Update due by Tuesday 5/21; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 5/23**
For Module 1 please read: D & M chapters 1 Politics in States and Communities and 2 Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States

Module 2 Federalism and Participation in State Politics: **Quiz due by Monday 5/20; Update due by Tuesday 5/21; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 5/23**
For Module 2 please read: D & M chapters 3 American Federalism and 4 Participation in State Politics

Memorial Day Holiday Monday 5/27 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 3 State Parties, Campaigns and Legislatures: **Quiz due by Monday 6/3; Update due by Tuesday 6/4; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/6**
For Module 3 please read: D & M chapters 5 State Parties and Campaigns and 6 Legislators in State Politics

Module 4 State Governors and Bureaucracy: **Quiz due by Monday 6/3; Update due by Tuesday 6/4; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/6**
For Module 4 please read: D & M chapters 7 Governors and 8 Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities

Withdrawal Deadline Friday 6/7 11:59 p.m.

Module 5 State Courts, Criminal Justice and Civil Rights: **Quiz due by Monday 6/10; Update due by Tuesday 6/11; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/13**
For Module 5 please read: D & M chapters 9 State Courts, Crime and Criminal Justice and 15 Politics and Civil Rights

Module 6 Local Governance and Participation: **Quiz due by Monday 6/10; Update due by Tuesday 6/11; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/13**
For Module 6 please read: D & M chapters 10 Governing America's Communities and 11 Participation in Community Politics

Module 7 Metropolitan Politics and Community Power: **Quiz due by Monday 6/17; Update due by Tuesday 6/18; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/20**
For Module 7 please read: D & M chapters 12 Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis and 13 Community Power, Land Use and the Environment

Module 8 State Taxation, Education, Health and Welfare: **Quiz due by Monday 6/17; Update due by Tuesday 6/18; additional discussion postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/20**
For Module 8 please read D & M chapters 14 Taxation and Finance, 16 Education and 17 Poverty, Welfare and Health

Term Ends: Saturday June 22

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: Politics in the States and Democracy and Constitutions.