POS 3122 - State Government and Public Policy

Section: AW60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2025
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Aubrey Jewett
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)
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Teaching Assistants

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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 (including taxation) 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 education, criminal justice, health and welfare, and the environment.

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.

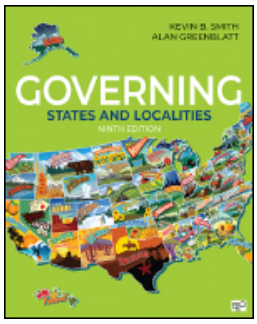
4. Explain how and why politics and policy in Florida operate as they do in contrast to other states.

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 sincerely hold different views.

Required Course Materials and Resources



Governing States and Localities
ISBN: 9781071901854
Authors: Kevin Smith and Alan Greenblatt
Publisher: Sage CQ Press
Publication Date: 2023
Edition: 9th edition
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 Sage CQ Press – the digital e-version is inexpensive (less than $70.00) and immediately available. The book is available for sale or rent and as new and used editions.

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

6 Modules – 100% of your total grade. Each module consists of 2 graded activities: Chapter Quiz and Update & Discuss. Each module will usually cover 2-3 chapters from the Smith and Greenblatt text.

Chapter Quiz – 60% of total grade. Each quiz will usually have 50 questions covering material from the Smith and Greenblatt book. You should read the chapters and study before starting the quiz. All 6 quizzes count towards your final grade. **You will need to download Respondus Lockdown browser and Monitor and have a webcam before taking the quizzes.** Students can download the Respondus Lockdown browser and Monitor here: https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

Update & Discuss – 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 using the required template and following the detailed instructions I provide in each module. 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 3 modules and all 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

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.

Required Hardware and Software - You will need to download Respondus Lockdown browser and have a webcam before taking the quizzes. Students can download the Respondus Lockdown browser and Monitor here: https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

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 – You will be assigned 3 Update and Discuss assignments and all three will count towards your overall grade. 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. 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.

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 2-3 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 Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree

requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

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 and Academic Integrity, 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 access and community engagement, 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
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu

- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

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

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good

idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

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

This table provides an overview of course topics by module.

Module	Topic
1	**State Politics, Federalism and Constitutions**
2	**State Finance, Participation, Parties, and Interest Groups**
3	**State Legislatures, Governors, and Bureaucracy**
4	**State Courts and Crime**
5	**Local Government and Metropolitan Politics**
6	**State Education, Health, Welfare, and Environmental Policy**
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