POS 3182 - Florida Politics

Section: 0M01

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2026
Class Meeting Days: T
Class Meeting Time: 10:30AM - 11:50AM
Class Meeting Location: CB1 O308
Modality: M
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Name: Aubrey Jewett
Office Location: HPH 302E
Office Hours
Tue and Thur 8:30 am to 10:00 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: 407-823-2608
Email: Aubrey.Jewett@ucf.edu

Teaching Assistants

John Akoeda john.akoeda@ucf.edu

Course Description

POS 3182 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Florida Politics: PR: POS 2041 or C.I. Examines the foundations of Florida government and political behavior, political institutions, and public policy. Occasional.

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 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.

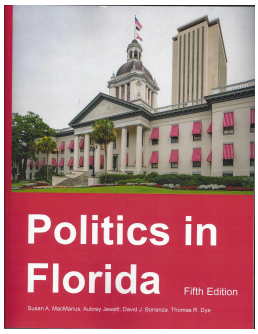
Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic facts, definitions and concepts related to the political foundations, institutions, processes, and public policy of Florida.
- Compare Florida political institutions and behaviors to identify and explain similarities and differences with other states and over time.
- Describe Florida political geography (state, regions, markets, districts, and counties) and its effect on politics, policy, and political culture.
- Explore how diversity impacts Florida politics and policy focusing on contemporary minority American culture as defined by race, ethnicity, sex, social and economic class, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and physical ability.
- Find, summarize, analyze, and express thoughtful opinions about current political and policy events in Florida.

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

Required Course Materials and Resources



Politics in Florida
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Notes: 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

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Assignments and Grading Weights:

Attendance and Participation in Face-to-Face session - 10% of your total grade. I encourage you to come to the face-to-face sessions to hear the lectures, ask questions, and join in discussion.

6 Online Modules – 90% 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.

Quizzes (6 taken online) – 60% of total grade. Each quiz will usually have 50 questions covering material from the text and the module. **You will need to download Respondus Lockdown browser and Monitor and have a webcam before taking the multiple choice exams.** Students can download the Respondus Lockdown browser and Monitor here: https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

Update & Discuss (3 done online) – 30% 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 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.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
1/16/26	Florida Politics Pretest - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
1/27/26	Update/Discussion 1	Discussion	100
1/28/26	Quiz 1 FL Culture, Constitution and Pathbreakers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
2/10/26	Update/Discussion 2	Discussion	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
2/11/26	Quiz 2 FL Public Opinion, Parties and Trailblazers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
2/24/26	Update/Discussion 3	Discussion	100
2/25/26	Quiz 3 FL Interest Groups, Legislature, and Pathbreakers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
3/10/26	Update/Discussion 4	Discussion	100
3/11/26	Quiz 4 FL Executive and Judicial Branches and Trailblazers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
4/7/26	Update/Discussion 5	Discussion	100
4/8/26	Quiz 5 FL Finance, Local Government, and Pathbreakers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100
4/21/26	Roll Call Attendance	Assignment	100
4/28/26	Update/Discussion 6	Discussion	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
4/29/26	Quiz 6 FL Public Policy and Trailblazers - Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam	Quiz	100

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 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

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

Face to Face Attendance - I take attendance for each face-to-face session and strongly encourage you to attend. If you have a documented extraordinary circumstance that causes you to miss class (such as a medical issue with a doctor's note) I will allow you one excused absence.

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 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 Update post within 24 hours of the due date. Once a module closes, I typically have 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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

- **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is prohibited**. Use of GenAI tools via website, app, or any other access, is not permitted in this class. All components of assignments in this course must be independently and originally completed by the student. Representing work created by GenAI as your own will be treated as plagiarism.

Disability Access & Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing equal access to all students with disabilities (ADHD, learning disabilities, Autism, chronic medical conditions, physical disabilities, etc.). To receive consideration for reasonable disability-related course accommodations, disabled students must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and complete the steps required for SAS to review accommodation requests. More information can be found on the UCF Student Accessibility Services website under the Start Here tab or by contacting SAS directly (Ferrell Commons 185; sas@ucf.edu; Phone - 407-823-2371).

Approved accommodations are shared with course instructors via the SAS Course Accessibility Letter. Implementing certain accommodations may require discussion about specific considerations of the course design, course learning objectives, and the individual academic and course challenges experienced by the student. While students with disabilities or chronic health needs are also encouraged to discuss any course concerns with professors in addition to contacting SAS, professors are not required to facilitate disability-related adjustments to the course unless the professor has received a Course Accessibility Letter from SAS that outlines approved accommodations.

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:

1. 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 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 assessment, 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.

2. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
3. 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 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.
4. 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" designated 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 – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & 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 discrimination by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance via the ONAC website or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line either anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or by 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 arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF's 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 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 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

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.

Course Summary:

This table provides an overview of course topics by module.

Module	Topic
1	FL Political Culture and Constitution
2	FL Public Opinion and Parties
3	FL Interest Groups and Legislature
4	FL Executive and Judicial Branches
5	FL Finance and Local Government
6	FL Public Policy