

Government and Politics in Louisiana

Political Science 2056	Government of Louisiana
Term:	Fall 2020
Class Time:	3:00 to 4:20 on Tuesday and Thursday
Room:	ZOOM Classroom
Professor:	Melissa S. Flournoy, Ph.D.
Contact:	flournoy@lsu.edu or m1flournoy@gmail.com
Office Hours:	2:00 to 3:00 on Tuesday and Thursday and as needed
Cell:	225.936.7200

Course Expectations: This class is geared to students who are interested in Louisiana government and politics and who may seek internships and employment in the Legislature, Governor's office or state agencies. The information is relevant and useful for all students seeking to understand political culture, state government structures, public policy and advocacy.

Other readings or assignments will be assigned by instructor. Students will be expected to follow current events in Louisiana politics and the Louisiana U.S. Senate campaign through online and print media sources as well as social media.

Required Text Books:

All of these books should be available on Amazon. Order immediately.

1. Mitch Landrieu, *In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History*
2. Wayne Parent, *Inside the Carnival—Unmasking Louisiana politics*
3. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*
4. Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers In Their Own Land*

Political Culture and Election Books

Select **one** of the following:

- A. Richard D. White, Jr., *Kingfish- The Reign of Huey P. Long*
- B. J. Liebling, *The Earl of Louisiana*
- C. John Maginnis, *The Last Hayride*
- D. Tyler Bridges and Jeremy Alford, *Long Shot*

Optional Additional Background Material:

Garvey and Widmer, *Louisiana The First 300 Years*

Eakin, Culbertson and Long, *Louisiana: The Land and Its People*

Fairclough, Adam, *Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana 1915-1972*

Class Schedule:	Tuesdays 3 pm	Class lectures
	Thursday 3 pm	Presentation by Speakers

Moodle: Class Announcements, reading assignments and grades will be posted on Moodle.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services at 578.5919 and make any necessary arrangements.

Goals and Objectives: The goals of this class on state and local government and politics are to provide the student with a brief overview of Louisiana history and culture and to provide a baseline of knowledge on politics and elected officials, governmental structure, policy issues and policymaking. The class will address the issues of race, region, class and other factors shaping the politics and culture of Louisiana.

The professor assumes some level of baseline information from students from Louisiana. Some background historical and cultural information will be provided in the beginning of the class to establish a common understanding of Louisiana culture, history and politics. The objective for this class is to provide useful information that the student can apply to their other academic pursuits, career goals and use as informed citizens and voters.

In order to learn about Louisiana history, politics and government, the class is divided into sections.

- Section 1. History and Political Culture, Race, Region, Religion
- Section 2. Politics: campaigns, elections, interest groups and political parties and campaign finance (Selection of Legislators for project)
- Section 3. Government Structure: state constitutions and government structure, state agencies, courts, local government
- Section 4: Policy Making in the Governor's Office and State Agencies and Legislature
- Section 5. Policy Issues: poverty, education, criminal justice and environmental and coastal issues
- Section 6. ***Strangers in Their Own Land*** --case study on how individuals background life experience and cultural views influence their position on the environment and climate change and industrial economic development.

Expectations for Student Participation and Projects:

1. Be on time to class and be prepared to participate in discussions. Class attendance and participation are required-- 10% of your grade is based on attendance and participation.
2. Professional Quality is important in presentation of all projects, assignments and exams. All assignments must be typed, spell-checked and formatted to 8.5 x 11 paper. Be thorough and conscientious with your work. Deadlines for presentations, assignments and projects are not negotiable.

3. Test/Quiz will be done on-line and not during Class Time. The Tests/Quizzes are time limited, but open book.

Professional Integrity

Professional integrity in the completion of projects is mandatory. Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the LSU Code of Student Conduct www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating on exams, plagiarizing, and other dishonest behavior. Do your own work in a professional manner.

Class Format and Structure

Guest Speakers: In most cases, guest speakers are invited on Thursday, but to accommodate some schedules there may be guest speakers on Tuesday.

In each section of the class, guest speakers will provide background, personal insights and context on the issues discussed. Several speakers will focus on political culture electoral campaigns, the role of state agencies in policymaking and the work of state agencies in implementing legislative priorities. Other speakers will come to discuss implications of social issues, poverty, healthcare and economic development and business climate. Over the course of the semester the students will gain an understanding that even though much is changed in Louisiana politics, much has stayed the same.

Major Graded Assignments:	%	Due Dates
Class Attendance and Participation: Be prepared for class, complete readings and come ready to discuss	10%	Attendance checked every class
Turn in Name of Election book	2.5%	September 10 th
Turn in Name of Legislator for project	2.5%	September 17 th
Political Culture Book Report/Essay Questions	15%	October 1 st
Quiz 1. Political Culture on Readings and Presentations	10%	October 15 th
Legislative District Overview Part 1	10%	October 22 nd
Quiz 2. Readings and Presentations- Carnival Book	20%	November 19 th
Legislative District Project Part 2	15%	December 1 st
Final Exam on Strangers in the Own Land	15%	December 8 th
	100%	

Grading Scale:

- A+= 100 – 97, A = 93-96, A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89, B= 83-86, B- = 80-82
- C+ = 77-79, C= 73-76, C- = 70-72
- D+= 67-69, D= 63-66, D- = 60-62
- F = 59 or below

Legislative Project Overview

Legislative District Analysis – each student will select a Louisiana House of Representative member/legislative district and complete an analysis of the district. Identify a legislator. Contact the legislator and schedule a telephone call or in-person meeting to start a conversation and learn more about the legislator and identify issues relevant to that district.

Part 1. Legislative Project – District Background

- A. Background on a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives
Provide a brief summary of the Legislator’s personal background, education, professional experience and political experience.

- B. District Background
Review data available on the Legislative website www.legis.la.gov. Provide a copy of the district map from the www.legis.la.gov website.

Provide a brief summary of the district, demographics, voter affiliations. Check the Secretary of State website www.sos.la.gov for election results in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019. What is the general percentage of turnout in the district? Who votes?

Legislative District Analysis materials are available at www.legis.la.gov and www.labudget.org. Include in your report the information provided for the district by the Louisiana Budget Project at www.labudget.org.

Part 2. Legislative Campaigns, Legislation and Constituent Services

- A. Legislative Campaign Summary
Review the legislators campaign websites and legislative websites. What are the major issues in the district election in 2019? Who were the key constituencies that helped the candidate win?

- B. Review the campaign finance reports
Who were the biggest donors? Did the Legislator take PAC money, if so from who and how much? What were the major sources of funding- events, individual donations, PACs? What types of interest groups contributed to the campaign?

- C. Campaign Expenses

What did the candidate spend money on in the campaign? What methods- direct mail, phone banks, events, TV, canvassing? Did the demographics of the district affect the type of campaign outreach completed?

D. Legislative Experience in 2020

What issues did the candidate focus on? Which committees is the Legislator on? What bills did the legislator file? What are their priority issues? What is their legislator’s position on key issues?

What positions has the legislator taken on taxation, the state budget or health and human services, COVID response, voting restrictions?

E. Constituency Outreach and Accessibility

How important is constituency outreach? What does the legislator do to keep informed of citizen’s issues? Is the Legislator accessible? What conclusions can be drawn about the issues that the Legislator focuses on and his contributors?

F. Would you vote for this Legislator? Explain.

Class Schedule, Topics, Speakers and Assignments:

Date	Topic	Speaker	Readings and Assignments
Section 1. History, Political Culture, Race, Religion and Region			
August 25 th	Class Cancelled		Order books Complete Survey on Survey Monkey
August 27 th	Class Cancelled		Review Historical Background information Materials posted on Moodle Background Materials from LPB Watch LPB Louisiana: A History
September 1 st	Introductions Political Literacy and Interests Course overview and expectations Current Issues and Activism Policy Priorities Louisiana History and Background	Dr. Flournoy	Review Historical Background information Materials posted on Moodle Background Materials from LPB Watch LPB Louisiana: A History
September 3 rd	Louisiana History and Background Geography, Religion, Race, Region Context of Louisiana Politics: Background, History, Culture	Dr. Flournoy	History Powerpoint on Moodle

September 8 th	Political Culture of White Supremacy Race and Democracy State Constitutions Reconstruction and Jim Crow Confederate Monuments Black Lives Matter	Dr. Flournoy	Prefaces to the First and Second Editions of Race and Democracy, The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana 1915-1972
September 10 th	Common Themes: Region, Race, Religion Political Coalitions In the Shadow of Statues- Discussion of Race and Politics	Dr. Flournoy Mitch Landrieu	Turn in name of Governor Election books Read: In the Shadow of Statues
Section 2. Politics and Campaigns			
September 15 th	Elections matter: Who votes and why Who runs and why Political Parties, Campaigns Lessons from the Field	Dr. Flournoy Speaker	Governor Election books Carnival – Chapter 1- 2
September 17 th	Power, Passion and Politics Money in politics Campaign Finance Reports, Campaign Finance Laws, Term Limits Election rules, redistricting	Dr. Flournoy	Carnival Chapter 1 -2 Legislative Districts—turn in name of your legislator for the project
September 22 nd	Elections and money Class Discussion on Governors Books Elections and interest groups Role of Local Government and Sheriffs Networks of Influence in Elections	Dr. Flournoy Dr. Wayne Parent	Governor Election Books Huey Long- Reign of the King Fish Earl Long- The Earl of Louisiana
September 24 th	Governor’s elections Edwin Edwards, John Bel Edwards Governor Elections- perspectives on politics- from McKeithen to John Bel Edwards		The Last Hayride and Long Shot
September 29 th	Governor’s elections Summary of Issues		Carnival- Chapter 2 – 4
Section 3. Government Structure			
October 1 st	State and Local Government: Federalism and Legal Structures State Constitutions 1974 Constitutional Convention	Jeremy Alford	Governor’s Election Book Report due Carnival – Chapter3 and 4
October 6 th	Local Government- parishes, municipalities, Jurisdictions and legal authority		Carnival – Chapters 3 and 4
October 8 th	Courts, criminal justice and legal system sheriffs, district attorneys		Carnival – Chapter 3 -4 The New Jim Crow
October 13 th	Criminal Justice and the School to Prison Pipeline	Dr. Lori Martin Dr. Roland Mitchell	Carnival – Chapter 4 School to Prison Pipeline Article The New Jim Crow
October 15 th	Panel on Criminal Justice VOTE, Parole Project, District Attorney		Quiz 1 ONLINE – not in Class
Section 4. Policy Making: Executive and Legislative Branches			

October 20 th	State Government – Executive Branch and state agencies		Policy Report
October 22 nd	Legislative Branch House and Senate Committees		Carnival Chapter 5 Turn In Legislative District Analysis Part 1
October 27 th	Policy Making in the Governor’s Office, Executive Agencies and Legislature	Guest Speaker	
October 29 th	Why is Louisiana ranked at the bottom? What issues do you care about? How can politics and policymaking move Louisiana forward? Priority Issues and State Rankings Policies, Advocates and Policy Making		Kids Count Databook Annie E. Casey Foundation Criminal Justice Reform Data LA Dept of Health Indicators
November 3 rd	State Budget and Fiscal Policy State Budget, Revenue, Taxes and Priorities	Jan Moller, La Budget Project	State Budget Basics
November 5 th	Legislative Policy Making Governor’s Agenda and Legislative Forecast Committees, Process		Louisiana House of Representatives Orientation Guide
November 10 th	Poverty and Economic Security Wages, Work and Self-Sufficiency Access to Health Care		United Way of Louisiana ALICE REPORT
November 17 th	Early Education and K-12—Children’s Issues		La Partnership for Children and Families
November 19 th	Higher Education and Workforce Training,		Quiz 2 on Carnival Book ONLINE Not in class
November 24 th	Economic Development: Business and Industry Legislative Process and Advocacy Roles for Lobbyists and Citizens and Organizations		LABI Report Cards ITEP Reports Strangers in your own Land
November 26 th	THANKSGIVING		
December 1 st	Policy, Politics and the Media Communicating what happening Media at the Capitol – how to know what’s going on		Advocacy Toolkit Nonprofit Lobbying Guide TURN IN Legislative District Analysis
Section 6. Strangers in Your Own Land			
December 3 rd	Environmental and Coastal Issues		Stranger in Your Own Land
December 8 th	Final Essay Exam due		Final Exam Due