

State and Local Government and Politics in Louisiana

Political Science 2056

Government of Louisiana

Term:

Spring 2019

Class Time:

3:00 to 4:30 on Tuesday and Thursday

Room:

104 Audubon

Professor:

Melissa S. Flournoy, Ph.D.

Contact:

flournoy@lsu.edu or m1flournoy@gmail.com

Office Hours:

TBD as needed cell: 225.936.7200

Text Books: A. J. Liebling, *The Earl of Louisiana*
Wayne Parent, *Inside the Carnival—unmasking Louisiana politics*
Vision 2020 Report
Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers In Their Own Land*

Additional Material: Other readings or assignments to be assigned by instructor. Students will be expected to follow current events in Louisiana politics through online and print media sources as well as social media. Legislative District Analysis materials are available at www.legis.la.gov and www.labudget.org. Additional data are available on-line.

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.

Course Description:

Course Expectations: This class is geared to a students who are interested in Louisiana government and politics and who may seek internships and employment in the legislature or Governor's office. The information is relevant and useful for all students.

Class attendance and participation are required. Deadlines for presentations, assignments and projects are not negotiable. Professional demeanor is expected in the classroom. You must not have your cell phone out or laptop out in the classroom. You are expected to be considerate, pay attention, take notes and participate in classroom discussions.

No audio or video recording devices are allowed unless special permission is granted by the instructor. You are expected to take notes by hand. Computers are not allowed to be open in the classroom. Use of cell phones during class is prohibited.

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. Additional assignments may be assigned during the semester.

Project: Legislative District Analysis – each student will select a legislative district and complete an analysis of the district, interview the legislator and identify issues relevant to that district. The election results for the district from the last three election cycles will be reviewed.

Guest Speakers: Guest speakers are invited on Thursday. Students should be present in acceptable attire if interested in meeting speakers to discuss internships or jobs. Professional attire is required – no shorts, t-shirts or other athletic wear.

A class field trip to the State Capitol will be scheduled in April for a meeting with the Governor and key state officials.

Class Structure: Tuesdays Class lectures
 Thursday Presentation by Speakers

Major Assignments:

Class Attendance and Participation: Be prepared for class, complete readings	10%
Legislative District Overview and Legislator interview	20%
Quiz on The Earl of Louisiana	15%
Mid Term Quiz on Readings and Presentations	25%
Final Exam on Strangers in the Own Land	30%
	100%

Expectations for Student Projects:

1. Professional Quality is important in presentation of all projects, assignments and exams.
2. All assignments to be turned in must be typed, spell-checked and on 8.5 x 11 paper.
3. Be thorough and conscientious with your work. This class is important to your career.

Grading Scale: A= 100 – 90 B= 89 – 80 C= 79 – 70 D= 69 – 60 F = 59 or below
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Class Schedule, Topics, Speakers and Assignments:

Class	Date	Topic	Speaker	Readings
1.	JANUARY 10 TH	What do you know? Context of Louisiana Politics: Background, History, Culture	Dr. Flournoy	The Earl of Louisiana Carnival – Chapter 1
2.	January 15 th	Geography, Religion, Race Region Why do you stay? Why do you go?	Dr. Flournoy Sarah Procopio, ENVISION LA	The Earl of Louisiana Carnival – Chapter 1
3.	January 17 th	From the Piney Woods to the river and the swamp Why Louisiana is different	Commissioner Jay Dardenne	The Earl of Louisiana Carnival – Chapter 2
4.	January 22 nd	Government: Federalism and Legal Structures	Dr. Flournoy	The Earl of Louisiana Carnival – Chapter 2
5.	January 24 th	State Constitutions	Former State Senator Tony Guarisco	Quiz on Earl

6.	January 29 th	Politics and Policy Making	Dr, Flournoy	Carnival – Chapter 2 Vision 2020 Report from 1998
7.	January 31 st	Elections matter: Who votes and why Who runs and why	Rep. Patricia Smith	Carnival – Chapter 2
8.	February 5 th	Election rules, turnout and participation, redistricting		Carnival – Chapter 2
9.	February 7 th	Power, Passion and Politics Money in politics	Darrell Hunt, election reform	Carnival – Chapter 2 and 3
10.	February 12 th	State Government – Bureaucrats and Fat Cats		Carnival – Chapter 3
11.	February 14 th	Legislative Politics and Power- Political Parties	Legislative Districts	Carnival – Chapter 3
12.	February 19 th	Legislative Policymaking	Legislative Districts	Carnival – Chapter 3
13.	February 21 st	Governor elections	Mary Patricia Wray	Carnival – Chapter 4
14.	February 26 th	Lobbying and Special Interests	Legislative Districts	Carnival- Chapter 5
15.	February 28 th	Mardi Gras and Cultural impact	Legislative Districts	Carnival Chapter 5
16.	March 5 th	MARDI GRAS		
17.	March 7 th	Courts and the legal systems – Race and money	Sister Allison McCarthy	Mid Term Quiz on Carnival Book
18.	March 12 th	Criminal Justice Reform		Vision 2020
19.	March 14 th	Poverty and Education	Alfreda Tilman Bester, DCFS	Vision 2020
20.	March 19 th	Environment and Oil		Strangers in their Own Land
21.	March 21 st	Executive Branch agencies and policy implementation	Mary Lee Orr, LEAN	Vision 2020
22.	March 26 th	Business and Industry	Diane Hanley, Together Baton Rouge and Camille Conaway, LABI	Strangers in their Own Land
23.	March 28 th	State Budget and Fiscal Policy	Jan Moller, La Budget Project	
24.	April 2 nd	Legislative Process		
25.	April 4 th	Implications for term limits, campaign finance laws and fundraising Media at the Capitol	Lanny Keller Melinda Deslatte	
26.	April 9 th	The LA Dilemma on Higher Education Tired of Being Last- Implications of national rankings on children	Susan Nelson , La Partnership for Children and Families	
27.	April 11 th	State Capitol Overview and the Governor's Policy Briefing	Governor John Bel Edwards	
28.	April 16 th	Spring Break		
29.	April 18 th	Spring Break		
30.	April 23 rd	Local Government		
31.	April 25 th	Citizenship and Louisiana's future		Vision 2020
32.	MAY 1 st	FINAL ESSAY due		