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
ic (e)3 (ic)4 (e)9 u (y)8 oa6 -2.44 T14 ()-4 (v)3.1 4 (k)6mictioev(l)4 IoaatenH2e Se,7-4 ()-13.9 (nla

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?