

Political Science 2056 Government of Louisiana

Instructor Dr. Wayne Parent popare@lsu.edu

Office: 207 Stubbs Hall

Graduate Asst Stephen Savage

Books A. J. Liebling. The Earl of Louisiana.

Michael Martin, ed. Louisiana Beyond Black and White

Additional Required Readings will be posted on Moodle

Course Requirements There will be three exams worth one fourth (25%) of the final grade each and two book quizzes worth one-eighth (12.5%) of the final grade each. The 25% exams will cover material from the lecture, additional readings and guest speakers. These exams are not cumulative. There will also be quizzes on The Earl of Louisiana and on Beyond Black and White worth 12.5% each.

Exam, Quiz Schedule:

Will be announced first week or two of class

Multiple Choice Exam One:

Earl of Louisiana Quiz:

Multiple Choice Exam Two:

Louisiana Beyond Black and White Quiz:

Final Exam 7:30-9:30 am Tuesday May 3 in the classroom

Make-ups must be approved and scheduled before exam date. For book quizzes, correspond directly with the graduate assistant Stephen Savage ssavag5@lsu.edu .

Book Quizzes - The graduate assistant will review administer and grade both book quizzes.

Moodle Class announcements, reading assignments and grades will be posted here on Moodle. You should check it regularly.

Grading The grading scale provided by the university will be used. If warranted, a class curve will be added to class exams and quizzes, but there will be no changes to the grading scale.

Extra Credit Periodically, unannounced, students will be asked their thoughts on the current shenanigans of Louisiana politics. Before each multiple choice exam one will be randomly selected and one point added to the exam grade.

Office Hours 8:30

Lecture Topics

Introduction:

1. Average Louisiana, Bizarre Louisiana
2. The 2015 Statewide Elections and a preview of 2016

The Context of Louisiana Politics

1. Federalism: Louisiana vs. Washington D.C.
2. Louisiana in Washington D.C.
3. More Constitutions Than Anyone Else
4. Political Corruption - Still Number One?

Participation in Louisiana Politics

1. Election Rules in Louisiana and in the 49 Normal States
2. Louisiana's Long and Anti-Long Party History
3. Louisiana Lobby Groups: More Powerful than Parties

The Institutions

1. How the Legislature Is Supposed to Work
2. Power Politics in the Legislature
3. The Governorship and Its Long Legacy
4. The Recent Governors
5. French Law and the Courts
6. Politics in the Bureaucracy

Local Politics in Louisiana

1. The Political Muscle of Parish Politics
2. The Weakness of Local Government
3. New Orleans and the Mardi Gras Syndrome
4. Baton Rouge, Shreveport and the Other Wanna Be Cities