



**FLORIDA  
ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY**

## NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Undergraduate Programs

**Department** Political Science

**College** Arts & Letters

*(To obtain a course number, contact [erudolph@fau.edu](mailto:erudolph@fau.edu))*

UUPC Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
 UFS Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCNS Submittal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banner Posted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Catalog \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Prefix</b>	POS	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i>	<b>Type of Course</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
<b>Number</b>	3182	<b>Lab Code</b>	Lecture	Florida Government

<b>Credits</b> <small>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</small>	3	<b>Grading</b> <small>(Select One Option)</small>	<b>Course Description</b> <small>(Syllabus must be attached; see <a href="#">Template</a> and <a href="#">Guidelines</a>)</small>
<b>Effective Date</b> <small>(TERM &amp; YEAR)</small>	Spring 2025	<b>Regular</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Sat/UnSat</b> <input type="radio"/>	This course examines the history and organization of Florida government, including an analysis of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Topics which will be explored include the Florida constitution, relationship with the federal government and the effects of interests outside state government.

<b>Prerequisites, with minimum grade*</b>	<b>Corequisites</b>	<b>Registration Controls</b> <small>(Major, College, Level)</small>

**\*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course**

<b>WAC/Gordon Rule Course</b>	<b>Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement</b> <small>(Select One Option)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  <small>WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See <a href="#">WAC Guidelines</a>.</small>	None  <small>General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See <a href="#">Intellectual Foundations Guidelines</a>.</small>

**Minimum qualifications to teach course**  
 Master's degree in Political Science or related field

<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b>	<b>List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course</b>
Steven D. Roper/ <a href="mailto:ropers@fau.edu">ropers@fau.edu</a> /561-297-4920	

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Date</b>
Department Chair _____ <i>D. Hayskin</i>	10/4/2024
College Curriculum Chair _____ <i>C. R. Holt</i>	10/17/24
College Dean _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	10/15/2024
UUPC Chair _____	
Undergraduate Studies Dean _____	
UFS President _____	
Provost _____	

Email this form and syllabus to [mjenning@fau.edu](mailto:mjenning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



## FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

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POS 3182  
Florida Government  
3 Credits  
Spring 2025

### Instructor Information

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Andrew Thomson  
Email: [andrewthomson@fau.edu](mailto:andrewthomson@fau.edu)  
Office: SO 380A  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Phone: 561-297-3210

### Course Description

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This course examines the history and organization of Florida government, including an analysis of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Topics which will be explored include the Florida constitution, relationship with the federal government and the effects of interests outside state government.

### Instructional Method

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**Fully Online Class**  
100% of the course is delivered online.

### Required Texts/Materials

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Readings are listed below.

### Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

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The course is designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge and understanding of Florida government relations. The exams, papers, assignments/projects and class participation are designed to achieve these course objectives.

### Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

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Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

- Establish and implement academic standards.
- Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
- Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct [University Regulation 4.007](#).

## Disability Policy

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/).

## Course Evaluation Method

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Student progress will be evaluated as follows:

Type	Points	Points per Type
Assignments/Projects (2)	75 Points	150 Points
Midterm Exam	100 Points	100 Points
Final Paper	200 Points	200 Points
Class Participation	50 Points	50 Points
Total		500 Points

Course grades will be based on the following scale:

A= 460 and higher

A-= 450-459

B+= 440-449

B= 410-439

B-= 400-409

C+= 390-399

C= 360-389

C-= 350-359

D+= 340-349

D= 310-339

D-= 300-309

F= 299 and under

## Code of Academic Integrity

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Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

## Attendance Policy Statement

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Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved

reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

## **Religious Accommodation Policy Statement**

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at [www.fau.edu/regulations](http://www.fau.edu/regulations).

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

## **Time Commitment Per Credit Hour**

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out- of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

## **Course Grading Scale**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
A	92 - 100%
A-	90 - 92%
B+	88 - 90%
B	82 - 88%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	78 - 80%
C	72 - 78%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	68 - 70%
D	62 - 68%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

## **Grade Appeal Process**

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You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- The grading process used non-academic criteria.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

[University Regulation 4.002](#) of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

## **Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes**

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Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend a test or complete an assignment on time and we can work on making arrangements for potential make-up.

## **Policy on the Recording of Lectures**

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Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

## **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center**

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Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few—offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

## **Student Support Services and Online Resources**

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- [Center for Learning and Student Success \(CLASS\) Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) FAU Libraries](#)
- [Math Learning Center](#)
- [Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)
- [Office of International Programs and Study Abroad](#)
- [Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry \(OURI\) Science Learning Center](#)
- [Speaking Center](#)
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- [Student Accessibility Services](#)
- [Student Athlete Success Center](#)
- [\(SASC\) Testing and Certification](#)
- [Test Preparation](#)
- [University Academic Advising Services](#)
- [University Center for Excellence in Writing](#)
- [\(UCEW\) Writing Across the Curriculum \(WAC\)](#)

## **Course Topical Outline**

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### **Week of January 7 – Introduction to Florida Government and the Political Process**

Reading: J. Edwin Benton. Forthcoming. "Government and Politics in the Sunshine State: An Introduction." In *Government and Politics in Florida*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. J. Edwin Benton, ed. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

### **Week of January 14 – Membership of the Florida Legislature**

Reading: Kay Fahey. 2018. "The Perks of Being a Lawmaker: Returns to Office as a Legislative Goal." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 43: 37-68.

### **Week of January 21 – Legislative Leadership**

Reading: Edwin J. Benton. 2007. "The Interplay of Party Leadership and Standing Committees in a Competitive Versus a Non-competitive State Legislative Setting: The Case of Florida." *Florida Political Chronicle* 18:27-41.

### **Week of January 28 – Committees**

Reading: Kathryn Depalo. 2006. "State Legislative Term Limits and the Law of Unintended Consequences: An Examination of Member Behavior, Power Structure and Legislative Organization in Florida." Ph.D. diss. Florida International University.

### **Week of February 4 – Legislation**

Reading: Kevin M. Wagner and Eric Prier. Forthcoming. "The Florida Legislature and the Legislative Process." In *Government and Politics in Florida*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. J. Edwin Benton, ed. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

### **Week of February 11 - Redistricting**

Reading: Jowei Chen and Jonathan Rodden. 2012. "Unintentional Gerrymandering: Political Geography and Electoral Bias in Legislatures." *Ann Arbor* 1001:1090-1045.

### **Week of February 18 - Midterm Exam**

### **Week of February 25 - Legislative Elections, Part 1**

Keith S. Schraufnagel. 2006. "Term Limits, Electoral Competition, and Representational Diversity: The Case of Florida." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 6(4):448-462.

### **Week of March 3 - No Class (Spring Break)**

### **Week of March 10 – Legislative Elections, Part 2**

Reading: Larry M. Constant. 2006. "When Money Matters: Campaign Contributions, Roll Call Votes, and School Choice in Florida." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 6(2):195-219.

**Week of March 17 – Relationship with the Executive Branch**

Reading: Thomas J. Baker and Dirk M. Hedge. 2013. "Term Limits." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38: 237-258.

Mark M. Singer. 2023. "Dynamics of Gubernatorial Approval: Evidence from a New Database." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 23(3):306-326.

**Week of March 24 – Florida Judicial Branch**

Reading: Tom Wilhelm and Ronald L. Vining. 2023. "Chief Justice Selection Rules and Judicial Ideology." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 23(3):267-282.

**Week of March 31 – Relationship with Federal and Local Governments**

Reading: Aaron Deslatte, Tyler A. Scott and David P. Carter. 2021. "Probing the Fiscal Implications of Multipurpose Development Districts: An Institutional Analysis of Florida Community Development Districts." *State and Local Government Review* 53:43-61

**Week of April 7 – The Legislature and Interest Groups**

George Hall, James A. Basseches, Ronald Bromley-Trujillo and Thomas Culhane. 2024. "CHORUS: A New Dataset of State Interest Group Policy Positions in the United States." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 54:1-26.

**Week of April 14 – Project Presentations**

**Week of April 21 – Project Presentations (continued)**

**Week of April 29 - Final Papers Due**