Government of Louisiana
Dr. Wayne Parent
Political Science 2056
9:30 MWF
Classroom: Room 16 Lockett Hall
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Office: 207 Stubbs Hall
Phone: 578-2141


Additional Readings 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 Breach of Faith worth 12.5% each. Exam dates will be announced the first week or two of class.

Exam Dates Exam and quiz dates will be announced in class and on Moodle at least one week prior to the date.

Moodle Class announcements, reading assignments and grades will be posted regularly on the Moodle application found on your LSU PAWS account. You will be expected to check it regularly.

Make-Ups ALL tests will be made up at the end of the semester during the class period in class.

Grading The final grade will be determined by the students point total for the entire semester. The grading scale is as follows: 90% and above=A 80%-89.9%=B 70%-79.9%=C 60%-69.9%=D Below 60%=F.

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 10:30-11:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Students may schedule other times if these times are inconvenient (call 578-2141 or email me at POPARE@LSU.EDU to schedule an appointment).

Disabilities: Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services (578-5919) and make all necessary arrangements through that office.
Lecture Topics

Introduction: Average Louisiana, Bizarre Louisiana

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. Lobbying Is Much More Than Jack Daniels and Shrimp Dip

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. Political Football, the Bureaucracy and the Budget

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