

Government of Louisiana
Political Science 2056
1:30-2:20 pm MWF
Office: 222C Journalism Building

Dr. Martin Johnson
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Books A. J. Liebling. *The Earl of Louisiana*. ISBN 978-0807133439

J. Bergal, et al. *City Adrift: New Orleans Before and After Katrina*.
<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=https://muse-jhu-edu.libezp.lib.lsu.edu/books/9780807133866/>

Additional Readings Posted to Moodle. I will be adding additional readings to the course Moodle during the semester. These readings will complement class lecture topics. You will be responsible for them on exams.

Course Requirements. The course features 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 *City Adrift* 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 student's point total for the entire semester. The grading scale is: Above 97% = A+; 93%–96.9% = A; 90%–92.9% = A-; 87%–89.9% = B+; 83%–86.9% = B; 80%–82.9% = B-; 77%–79.9% = C+; 73%–76.9% = C; 70%–72.9% = C-; 67%–69.9% = D+; 63%–66.9% = D; 60%–62.9% = D-; Below 60% = F.

Extra Credit. Periodically, unannounced, students will be asked their thoughts on the current happenings of Louisiana politics. Before each multiple choice exam, one will be randomly selected and one point added to the exam grade for students who have turned in a response.

Office Hours. 10–11 am TWTh, or by appointment (email me to schedule a time).

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

Lecture Topics

The Context of Louisiana Politics

1. Louisiana Political Culture: The People and the Place
2. Federalism: Louisiana vs. Washington, D.C.
3. Louisiana in Washington, D.C.
4. More Constitutions Than Anyone Else
5. Political Corruption – Still Number One?

Elections and Advocacy in Louisiana Politics

6. Election Rules in Louisiana and in the 49 Normal States
7. Louisiana's Long and Anti-Long Party History
8. Interest Groups: Lobbying Is Much More Than Jack Daniels and Shrimp Dip

The Institutions

9. How the Legislature Is Supposed to Work
10. Power Politics in the Legislature
11. The Governorship and Its Long Legacy
12. The Recent Governors
13. Political Football, the Bureaucracy and the Budget
14. French Law and the Courts

Local Politics in Louisiana

15. The Political Muscle of Parish Politics
16. The Weakness of Local Government
17. New Orleans and the Mardi Gras Syndrome
18. Baton Rouge, Shreveport and the Other Wanna Be Cities

PLEASE NOTE: On Friday, January 19, our standard class meeting will be replaced by your participation in the Louisiana Redistricting Summit, hosted at LSU by the Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs, in the Journalism Building Holliday Forum. The summit includes:

1 p.m. The Politics of Redistricting, Moderator: Martin Johnson,
Participants: Rep. Julie Emerson, Rep. Marcus Hunter, Sen. Ronnie Johns
2 p.m. Looking Ahead, Opportunities for Reform, Moderator: Robert Travis
Scott, Participants: Rep. Julie Stokes, Rep. Ted James, Rep. Ted Magee, House
Speaker Pro Tempore Walt Leger