

Proposed Course Syllabus, Spring 2025
Florida Politics
University of Florida Office of Government Relations
Friday Afternoons

Instructor: Chris Emmanuel
Office Hours: By appointment
Location: Office of Government Relations Conference Room
215 South Monroe Street, Suite 110, Tallahassee, Florida

Required Text: Various articles, available online.

Course Description: Florida is one of the most dynamic, most interesting, and most unusual states in the union. This course is a short survey of governing the Sunshine State, with perspectives from law, political science, and history. Students will leave with an understanding of the institutions, actors, and processes which govern Florida.

Class Schedule: Assignments and dates are subject to change; the instructor will provide advance notice of any change during class time.

Grading:

Attendance/Discussion	50%	<i>Come to class, be prepared to discuss the readings</i>
Oral Presentation:	10%	<i>Ten-minute presentation on a state agency.</i>
Bill Analysis:	10%	<i>A two-page bill analysis of a bill or current event as assigned.</i>
One or Two Quizzes:	20%	<i>On assigned readings, if readings are not done.</i>
Professional Resume	10%	<i>Final exam.</i>

Course Objectives By the end of this course, students will understand the structure and functions of Florida's government, be able to analyze the separation of powers in the state's system, evaluate the influence of lobbyists, trade groups, and advocates, and analyze some policy bills. Students will also be able to identify career paths and structure a political resume.

Course Expectations You are expected to exemplify high academic and professional standards. This course will usually include a weekly in-person Friday meeting in two parts, a session with Mr. Chris Emmanuel, Director of the UF State Relations Office to discuss "Governing Modern Florida," and a TIP Speaker Series guest speaker. Together, your Friday meeting will last two hours with a break between each session. Prepare for these Friday meetings ahead of time. Your first-class meeting will be Friday, January 17, 2025, and the speaker series will begin at subsequent Friday morning meetings and possibly last through the Florida Legislative Session. All Friday meetings are synchronous, Zoom-based are not available, thank you for not asking *The above meetings are synchronous, and may include day or evening times. *

Week One: Friday, January 17th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Week Two: Friday, January 24th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Class Introductions and a Quick History of Florida and its Government

- Required Reading:
 - Read: [Article I and II](#) of the Florida Constitution
 - Read [Article I, Section 1 and Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights](#).

Week Two: Friday, January 31th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Legislative Branch: Part I

- Required Reading:
 - Read: [Article III](#) of the Florida Constitution
 - Read: [How an Idea Becomes a Law](#) by the Florida Senate
- Optional Readings: Optional Readings:
 - Read: Mary Adkins. [The Same River Twice: A Brief History of How the 1968 Florida Constitution Came to Be and What it Has Become](#). 18 FLA. COASTAL L. REV. 5 (2016). Part I and II.
- Assignment: Pick Oral Presentation and schedule presentations.

Week Three: Friday, February 7th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Legislative Branch: Part II

- Required Reading:
 - Understanding a House and Senate Calendar (Links will be sent by Monday, January 20th)

Week Four: Friday, February 14th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Judicial Branch, Part I

- Required Reading:
 - Read: [Article V of the Florida Constitution](#)
 - Read: [The Judicial Branch Organizational Chart](#)
 - Read: [Florida's Court System](#)
- Assignment: Current event or bill analysis

Week Five: Friday, February 21th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Judicial Branch: Tour of Florida Supreme Court – Tentative

- No readings

Week Six: Friday, February 28th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Executive Branch, Part I

- Required Reading:
 - Read: [Article IV](#) of the Florida Constitution
 - Read: [The State of Florida Organizational Chart](#)
 - Read: [The Executive Office of the Governor Organizational Chart](#)
- Possible quiz on Readings, including this week's reading.

Week Seven: Friday, March 7th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Executive Branch, Part II

- Required Readings:
 - Read: [Executive Order 23-214 \(Tropical Storm Milton\)](#)
 - Read: [Executive Order 20-51 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Optional viewing:
 - [I'm Just A Bill](#) by School House Rock
 - [Executive Order](#) by Saturday Night Live

Week Eight: Friday, March 14th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's Executive and Legislative Branches – Tour of the Historic Capitol – Tentative

- No readings

Week Nine: Friday, March 21st | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Florida's State Budget

- Required Readings:
 - Read: [Florida Long-Range Financial Outlook \(October 11, 2024\) by EDR](#)
- Quiz on Readings, including this week's reading.

Week Ten: Friday, March 28th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM*Florida's Economy*

- Required Readings:
 - Read: [Final Bill Analysis of HB 5 \(2023\) by the Florida House of Representatives](#)

Week Eleven: Friday, April 4th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM*Florida's Lobbyists and Think Tanks*

- Required Readings:
 - Read: [Florida Chamber Foundation Workforce Needs Study 2023 Executive Summary](#)
 - Read: [Florida Tax Watch 2024 Budget Turkey Report](#)

Week Twelve: Friday, April 11th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM*Careers in Florida Public Policy*

- Assignment Due:
 - Professional resume.

Week Thirteen: Friday, April 18th | 9:30 – 11:30 AM*Florida's Local Governments, Special Districts, and School Districts*

- Required Readings:
 - Read: Florida Senate [Bill Analysis of SB 4-C \(2022\)](#)

Week Fourteen: Friday, April 25th & May 2nd | 9:30 – 11:30 AM*Make up class (if needed)**Reflections and Employment in Florida Politics*

- No readings

Grading and Additional Expectations

In addition to exemplifying the aforementioned high professional standards.

Courteous and appropriate classroom behavior is always expected, this begins with punctuality and preparedness at each class meeting. Since this class will require active engagement, students should avoid such offensive behavior as text messaging, unrelated phone or laptop use, working on assignments for other classes, talking with neighbors about unrelated matters, and, if possible, coming to class late or leaving before class is over. Also keep in mind that the University of Florida prohibits any form of discrimination or sexual harassment among students, faculty, and staff. For further information, see the Human Resources Policies webpage on the College's website.

Attendance and Participation: Your attendance and active participation, including reading and coming to the Speaker Series having done your research is an essential part of the course and will factor directly into your final grade. Showing up ready to learn, discuss, and giving a good effort in every way will benefit your grade, likewise, lapses in attendance and participation, including not completing the assigned reading will diminish your final grade precipitously. Do not expect extra credit later in the semester to compensate for a lack of engagement on your part.

Academic Honesty: Any Reading Response/Discussion Post, answer, or assignment that you turn in should always be your work. Plagiarism, using AI programs to write essays, and other forms of cheating may be referred to the UF Dean of Students Academic Dishonesty review and may be subject to disciplinary action and a 0 in the course. Finally, no make-ups or extensions will be given for assignments after the scheduled due date. Makeup exams will be permitted only at the discretion of the instructor and require advanced notice and documentation of severe hardship

or medical need. Remember, without exception, late take-home essay responses will be reduced in points/half grades each day late, and missed discussion posts or other assignments may count as a zero.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/publicresults/Links to an external site.>

UF Grading and Grade Point Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/Links to an external site.>

Again, course grades will be determined in the following manner: Attendance/Discussion- 50%; Oral Presentation on a state agency- 10%; A Two-page Bill Analysis- 10%; Quizzes if assigned readings are not done-20%; Professional Resume/Final exam 10%.

Grading scale: A = 100-93; A- = 92=90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D+ = 69-67; D = 66-63; D- =62-60; F = 59-0

Additional Resources

Regardless of whether students are in Gainesville, or taking a class in Tallahassee like TIP students, they continue to have access to the following and other UF offices.

Students with Disabilities: We are committed to accommodating students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/Links to an external site.> It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Dean of Students Office: The Dean of Students Office is the gateway to the University of Florida. The DSO prides itself on encouraging growth, providing care, and promoting accountability. The Dean of Students Office includes areas that are dedicated to ensuring that students and families feel welcome to the UF community but also understand that there are expectations about being a part of a community of learners. The work of the Dean of Students Office is probably most known by its work the Care Team who provide 1:1 outreach to students who might be experiencing some sort of distress. <https://umatter.ufl.edu/office/dean-students-office/>

UF Counseling and Wellness Center: CWC's counselors are here to support UF Students in their educational journey and to help them achieve their personal wellness goals along the way. Our primary commitment is to ensure that each student is connected with the best-fitting University or community resources to meet their needs. CWC provides a variety of counseling services, including group, individual, and couples. We offer over 30 groups facilitated by 1-2 counselors and group counseling is the only ongoing counseling service available. CWC uses a short-term individual and couples counseling approach defined as a maximum of 12 sessions. You and your individual or couples' counselor will evaluate whether you would need to use all of those sessions or less, based on your concern. To learn about receiving any of these services, you will participate in a 20-30 minute consultation meeting. <https://counseling.ufl.edu/services/guide-to-services/>