

Political Science 2056 Government of Louisiana

**Instructor** Dr. Wayne Parent popare@lsu.edu Office: 207 Stubbs Hall

**Graduate Asst** TBA

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

John Maginnis The Cross to Bear

**Additional Readings on Moodle**

A dozen or so readings will be posted for each of the three exams.

**Textbook**

There is no traditional textbook in addition to Earl of Louisiana and Cross to Bear. If students wish to have a book that generally follows the course, there is a book published by LSU Press and written by your instructor called "Inside the Carnival: Unmasking Louisiana Politics" published in 2006 that is generally available at campus bookstores and online bookstores. It's not required because your teacher feels a little silly requiring a book that he wrote covering material he already covers in class. It may be useful if the lectures are confusing, but the lecture supersedes anything in the book.

**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 Cross to Bear worth 12.5% each. Exam dates will be announced the first week or two of class.

**Lecture/Moodle Readings Exams** - The final is 10:00-Noon Saturday May 10. A small scantron is required for these exams.

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

**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 multiple choice exams and both book quizzes will be made up at the end of the semester during the class period Friday May 2 in the classroom.

**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 50%=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** TBA Students may schedule other times if these times are inconvenient 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. 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. 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