NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Department History

College Arts and Letters

*(To obtain a course number, contact **coursenumbers@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 10-12-2026
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Prefix AMH

Number 4353

(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)

Lab Code

Type of Course Lecture

Course Title Voting Rights in U.S. History

Credits *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)* 3

Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)* Fall 2027

Grading *(Select One Option)*

Regular ●

Sat/UnSat ☐

Course Description *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)*

This course examines the contested history of voting from the writing of the Constitution to the present. Students will learn about election practices, election law, struggles over the ballot, and why we still argue about how we practice democracy in the United States.

Prerequisites, with minimum grade* None

Corequisites

Registration Controls *(Major, College, Level)*

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

Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) Course

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

WAC criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

General Education Requirement *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See General Education Guidelines.

Minimum qualifications to teach course

Ph.D. in History

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

Evan Bennett / ebennett@fau.edu / 7 0008

List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair	9/18/26
College Curriculum Chair	9/29/2026
College Dean	10/01/2026
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	10-12-2026
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff	10-12-2026
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Department of History

AMH 4353

Voting Rights in U.S. History

Meeting Time
Location
3 Credit(s)
Fall 2027 - 1 Full Term

Instructor
Evan Bennett
Email: ebennett@fau.edu
Office: AL 151
Office Hours: TBD
Phone: (561) 297-0008

Course Description

This course examines the contested history of voting from the writing of the Constitution to the present. Students will learn about election practices, election law, struggles over the ballot, and why we still argue about how we practice democracy in the United States.

Instructional Method
In-Person
Traditional concept of in person. Mandatory attendance is at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts/Materials

Berman, *Give Us the Ballot*, ISBN: 9781250094728, Publisher: Picador
Keyssar, *The Right to Vote*, ISBN: 9780465010141, Publisher: Basic Books
Ware, *Why They Marched*, ISBN: 9780674986688, Publisher: Harvard University Press
Faulkenberry, *Poll Power*, ISBN: 9781469652009, Publisher: University of North Carolina Press

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to...

Define major changes in voting practices, election law, and the U.S. Constitution
Describe the major turning points in the history of voting in the United States
Give examples of when and how the right to vote has been expanded and times it has been constrained.
Analyze primary and secondary sources related to the history of voting in the United States
Collect and evaluate primary sources
Compose a research paper based on primary and secondary sources

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

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

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/.

Course Evaluation Method

Course Evaluations/Assignments
(Details about each assignment in Canvas)

Reading Quizzes - 15 points

Discussion Assignments - 20 points

Research Project - 40 points (made up of several assignments)

Final Exam - 25 points

Code of Academic Integrity

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

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.

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Students are permitted up to 2 unexcused absences. A penalty of 2% will be applied to the final grade for each additional unexcused 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.

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

Letter Grade	
A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Grade Appeal Process

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
Late work policies depend on the nature of the assignment:

Discussion board responses can be submitted up to 2 days late without penalty, but late submissions will not be accepted after that except in cases of documented excused absences. Lowest three discussion scores are dropped.

Reading quizzes can be submitted late without penalty. All quizzes will close on November 22 and no makeups will be allowed after that. Lowest three reading quiz scores are dropped.

Research assignment components will receive a 3% penalty for each day they are late.

If you run into a problem at any point, reach out to me so we can work together on a solution for you.

All students are required to take the final exam in person on the date set by the university:

Policy on the Recording of Lectures
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.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. [Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit https://fau.edu/ai/citation

AI Language Specific to This Course
AI Prohibited: The use of AI to assist in any work assigned in this specific course is prohibited.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

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

Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
FAU Libraries
Math Learning Center
Office of Information Technology Helpdesk
Center for Global Engagement
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)

Science Learning Center
Speaking Center
Student Accessibility Services
Student Athlete Success Center (SASC)Links to an external site.
Testing and Certification
Test Preparation
University Academic Advising Services
University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW)
Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

Course Topical Outline

Wednesday, August 21 - Introductions
Read: Syllabus

Friday, August 23 - Voting Today

Wednesday, August 28 - Democracy and Republican Governance

Friday, August 30 - Voting and Self-Governance in the Colonial Era
Read:
The Right to Vote, 3-21
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, September 4 - The Constitution and the Vote
Read:
The Right to Vote, 21-25
Documents in Canvas

Friday, September 6 - Democracy, for Some
Read:
The Right to Vote, 26-76
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, September 11 – 19th Century Democracy
View:
George Caleb Bingham paintings (Canvas)
Read:
Gail Husch, "George Caleb Bingham's The County Election: Whig Tribute to the Will of the People"

Friday, September 13 - Election Days in Antebellum America
Read:
Richard Bensel, *The American Ballot Box in the Nineteenth Century*, selected parts (Canvas)
Ellery Foutch, "The Glass Ballot Box and Political Transparency" (Canvas)

Wednesday, September 18 - The Fifteenth Amendment
Read:
The Right to Vote, 77-105
Documents in Canvas

Friday, September 20 - The Road to Disfranchisement
Read:
The Right to Vote, 105-116
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, September 25 - Political Machines
Read:
The Right to Vote, 117-161
Documents in Canvas

Friday, September 27 – Reforming the Vote

Wednesday, October 2 - The 17th Amendment
Read:
The Right to Vote, 162-172
Documents in Canvas

Friday, October 4 - Woman Suffrage, part 1
Read:
The Right to Vote, 172-202
Why They Marched, part 1
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, October 9 - Woman Suffrage, part 2
Read:
The Right to Vote, 202-222
Why They Marched, part 2
Documents in Canvas

Friday, October 11 - Woman Suffrage, part 3
Read:
Why They Marched, part 3
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, October 16 - Democratic Breakthroughs
Read:
The Right to Vote, 223-255
Documents in Canvas

Friday, October 18 - The Second Reconstruction, part 1
Read:

The Right to Vote, 256-269
Give Us the Ballot, 13-64
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, October 23 – The Second Reconstruction, part 2
Read: *Poll Power*, entire book

Friday, October 25 – Expanding Democracy
The Right to Vote, 269-293
Give Us the Ballot, 65-120
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, October 30 - The 26th Amendment
Read:
Documents in Canvas

Friday, November 1 - Election Days in Twentieth-Century America
Read:
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, November 6 - The Road to *Shelby County*
Read:
Give Us the Ballot, 121-270

Friday, November 8 – After *Shelby County*
Read:
Give Us the Ballot, 270-314

Wednesday, November 13 - Modern Voting: Felony Disfranchisement
Read:
Documents in Canvas

Friday, November 15 - Modern Voting: Gerrymandering
Read:
Documents in Canvas

Wednesday, November 20 - Modern Voting: Alternatives
Read:
Documents in Canvas

Friday, November 22 – American Democracy in a Global Context
Read:
Documents in Canvas