

# Rural Politics in the United States

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COURSE INFORMATION	<i>Term:</i> Spring 2021, Mod 2 <i>Level:</i> Intermediate Seminar <i>Meet:</i> Tuesday, 3-5 <i>Type:</i> Remote ( <i>synchronous or asynchronous</i> ) <i>Syllabus Revision:</i> April 11, 2021	<i>Instructor:</i> Jack Reilly <i>live text:</i> <a href="https://ncfpolgeo.slack.com">ncfpolgeo.slack.com</a> <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:jreilly@ncf.edu">jreilly@ncf.edu</a> <i>Office Hours:</i> Fridays, 9-11 <i>Appointments:</i> <a href="https://jacklireilly.com/appointments">jacklireilly.com/appointments</a>
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NOTE In addition to this agenda, which identifies, for each week, what your course responsibilities are, you should also consult the **course syllabus**, which outlines high-level expectations and course structures.

TOPICS OUTLINE (*Subject to change*)

W	Topic	Actual Class Date
1	Introduction: What is Rural Place and Space?	March 23
2	Foundations of Rural Politics	March 30
	BREAK DAY	
3	Rural Culture & Society	April 13
4	Place-Based Threat, Immigration, and Race	April 20
	BREAK DAY	
5	Rural Competitiveness	May 4
6	Student Book Review Presentations	May 11

PODCAST Each week, we listen to an episode of the podcast, *To See Each Other*, focused on Rural America. All episodes can be found [at this link](#) (or just search in your podcast player). When listening, be sure to listen critically: what is the podcast attempting to show, and how is it doing so? Each week, think: the podcast is explicitly making the argument that Democrats can be competitive in rural America. Based on the nature of Republican strength in rural America, can they?

REACTION PAPERS, ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS Note that each week of the class (not including the introductory day and final book review presentation day) there are reaction papers due and article presentations due. Make sure to be aware of which days you have a reaction paper due, as opposed to discussion questions. (And keep track of your an article presentation day!) The schedule for both can be found in a separate document in the logistics folder of the course google drive.

## Course Agenda

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WEEK 1	<b>Introduction</b> (March 23) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Watch: <a href="#">Meet the rural Americans who fear they're being forgotten</a></li><li>2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 1: Complicating the Narrative (Podcast)</li><li>3. Read: Syllabus</li><li>4. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)</li></ol>
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## WEEK 2

### Foundations of Rural Politics (March 30)

1. Read
  - Cramer Walsh, "Putting Inequality in Its Place", *American Political Science Review*
  - Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, ch 1, 9
  - Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*, Introduction, ch 1, Conclusion
  - Monnat and Brown, "More than a Rural Revolt: Landscapes of Despair and the 2016 Presidential Election", *Journal of Rural Studies*
2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 2: Michigan (Podcast)
3. Submit: Response Paper *or* Discussion Questions, depending on your assignment for the week
4. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)

## WEEK 3

### Rural Culture & Society (April 13)

1. Read: Wuthnow, *The Left Behind* (Introduction, ch. 1-5)
2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 3: Iowa (Podcast)
3. Submit: Response Paper *or* Discussion Questions
4. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)

## WEEK 4

### Place-Based Threat, Health, Economics, and Race (April 20)

1. Read
  - Wuthnow, ch 6 ("Bigotry"). *Also reflect on Wuthnow, ch 2 ("Present Dangers")*
  - Sherman, "Coping with Rural Poverty: Economic Survival and Moral Capital in Rural America" *Social Forces*
  - Gest et al, "Roots of the Radical Right: Nostalgic Deprivation in the United States and Britain" *Comparative Political Studies*
  - Lichter, "Immigration and the New Racial Diversity in Rural America" *Rural Sociology*
2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 4: New Jersey (Podcast)
3. Submit: Response Paper *or* Discussion Questions
4. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)
5. Note: You need to identify your book for the book review by next week! (*April 27*)

## WEEK 5

### Rural Competitiveness (May 4)

1. Read
  - Wuthnow, epilogue
  - Burton et al, "Inequality, Family Processes, and Health in the New Rural America" *American Behavioral Scientist*
  - Scala et al, "Red rural, blue rural? Presidential voting patterns in a changing rural America" *Political Geography*

- Kleeb, *Harvest the Vote*, selections
- 2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 5: North Carolina (Podcast)
- 3. Submit: Response Paper *or* Discussion Questions
- 4. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)

#### WEEK 6

##### **Presentations** (May 11)

1. Prepare & Deliver: book review presentations
2. Listen: To See Each Other, Pt 6: Indiana (Podcast)
3. Attend: Class, Tuesday 3 PM (zoom)