

# 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> January 31, 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://jackreilly.com/appointments">jackreilly.com/appointments</a>
DESCRIPTION	This intermediate seminar examines the political context of rural America. While urban politics, suburban politics, and regional politics (especially southern politics) in the United States attracts frequent attention in academic circles, rural politics has no comparably significant literature, a gap that is increasingly striking and problematic as the rural and urban political divide increases with every passing year in American politics. In this course, we develop an understanding of the unique form, structure, and shape of rural politics, with an aim of gaining an appreciation for the unique contours of society, culture, policy, and public opinion in this increasingly overlooked segment of American life. Topics to be addressed include rural political behavior, ideology, voting, and partisanship; rural representation, resentment, and populism; rural demography; rural psychology, community structure, social cohesion, and identity; rural policy issues including public service provisions, farming, education, and the environment; and the reasons for the increasing political divide between rural America and the country's cities and suburbs.	
COURSE STRUCTURE	This course can be taken in one of two ways: as a remote synchronous discussion seminar, or as an asynchronous correspondence course. Students taking the course need to choose a track at the beginning and stick with it, as course requirements are slightly different in each track.	
SIBLING COURSES	This course is a mod2 course (a half semester course) with two sibling half-semester courses: <i>Political Geography</i> , a mod1 course taught in the same time slot as <i>Rural Politics</i> , but taking place in the first half of the semester, and <i>R for GIS and Political Geography</i> , a full term for mod credit course. Students looking for a whole course unit in political geography are encouraged to consider one or both of those courses in addition to this one.	
PREREQUISITES	<i>Required:</i> an introductory course in political science or geography. Second, third, or fourth-year status preferred. Enrollment is at the discretion of the instructor, who may waive pre-requisites in special circumstances.	

## Materials

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BOOKS	<b>Required</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wuthnow, 2018. <i>The Left Behind: Decline and Rage in Small-Town America</i></li></ul> <b>Optional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cramer, 2016. <i>The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker</i></li></ul>
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