

State Politics
Political Science 4650
Spring 2018
Class Time: MWF 10:10am – 11:00am
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: MW 1:30pm - 3:00pm

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I. Course Description

The study of state politics has much to offer political scientists interested in American politics. And it is inherently a comparative field for political analysis: within the parameters of the Constitution and legal/political framework of the federal government the United States has fifty state governments and nearly ninety-thousand local governments serving as “laboratories of democracy”.

As a whole this course is designed to offer students to more thorough understanding of politics in the American states and equip them with some tools to analyze states in a comparative perspective. The course is organized into two areas. We will begin the course with a look into the political development of the states and the relationships states have with their citizens. The second half of the course is focused primarily on the governing behaviors of state political institutions.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Assigned Reading

Keeping up with the assigned readings is essential for your success in this course. You are not required to purchase any textbooks for this course, but we will be making use of electronic texts available through the library.

(2.2) Course Assignments

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with course material. Your grade in this class will be assessed through class participation, two writing assignments, and two exams.

Both the midterm and final exams are written exams. The two writing assignments are reflection papers that ask you to explain your understanding of the reading assignments for a particular week. Detailed instructions for these two writing assignments are posted to our class eLC page. Participation will be assessed through a combination of your regular presence in class and contributions to our discussions of state politics.

Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for you final grade:

Class Participation: 20%	Daily
Midterm Exam: 25%	March 7 th
Final Exam: 25%	May 2 nd
Writing Assignments: 30%	Weekly

(2.4) **Grading**

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A	=	94-100	C+	=	78
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	88	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

III. Class Policies

(3.1) **Absences**

Come to class! Attendance is critical for the successful completion of this course. If you are more than ten (10) minutes late for this class DO NOT ENTER the class unless we previously discussed your tardiness.

(3.2) **Makeup Exams**

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. If you are late to an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate and documented excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science on Fridays from 1pm – 4pm.

(3.3) **Missed/Late Assignments**

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of five points for each calendar day late.

(3.4) **Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

Violations of the academic dishonesty rules are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course as well as possible expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, academic misconduct, or plagiarism, examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.5) **Problems and Emergencies**

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact Professor Glas as soon as possible.

(3.6) **Disability Disclosure Statement**

Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services before an instructor can modify instruction or expectations.

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is March 19th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a "WF".

IV) Course Schedule

Week of January 1st – Syllabus

*** Classes Begin – January 4th ***

Week of January 8th – State Politics

Morehouse, Sarah M. and Malcolm E. Jewell. 2004. "States as Laboratories: A Reprise." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 177-203.
Brace, Paul and Aubrey Jewett. 1995. "Field Essay: The State of State Politics Research." *Political Research Quarterly* 48(Sept.):643-82.

*** Drop/Add End – January 10th ***

Week of January 15th – Federalism and the Founding Era

+Elazar Chapter 1

The Articles of Confederation

The U.S. Constitution

Federalist #45

*Brutus, no. 1: Federalist Power Will Ultimately Subvert State Authority

*** No Classes – MLK Day – January 15th ***

Week of January 22nd – Federalism

+Elazar Chapters 2 & 4

+Niemi and Dyck chapter 1

*Ferejohn, John and Barry Weingast. 1997. "Can the States Be Trusted?" in The New Federalism: Can the States be Trusted? (eds. Ferejohn and Weingast)

Weingast, Barry R. 1995. "The Economic Role of Political Institutions: Market-Preserving Federalism and Economic Development." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 11 (April): 1-31.

Week of January 29th – Constitutions

+Niemi and Dyck Chapter 2

Hammons, Christopher W. 1999. "Was James Madison wrong? Rethinking the American Preference for Short, Framework-Oriented Constitutions." *American Political Science Review*, 93 (December): 837-849.

Tarr, G. Alan. 1992. "Constitutional Theories and Constitutional Rights: Federalist Considerations," *Publius: The Journal Of Federalism*, 22 (Spring): 93-108

Tarr, G. Alan and Mary Porter. 1987. "Introduction: State Constitutionalism and State Constitutional Law," *Publius: The Journal Of Federalism*, 17 (Winter): 1-12

Week of February 5th – Local Government

- DeTocqueville, Alexis. 1831. "The Necessity of Examining What Happens in Individual States Before Considering the Union as a Whole." Democracy in America.
- Gargan, J. 1981. Consideration of Local Government Capacity. *Public Administration Review*, 41(6), 649-658.
- Lineberry, Robert L. and Edmund P. Fowler. 1967. "Reformism and Public Policies in American Cities." *The American Political Science Review*, 61 (September): 701-716.

Week of February 12th – Political Participation in the States

- Gray, Virginia. 1976. "A Note on Competition and Turnout in the American States." *The Journal of Politics* 38(1): 153-158.
- Wolfinger, Raymond E., Benjamin Highton, and Megan Mullin. 2005. "How Postregistration Laws Affect the Turnout of Citizens Registered to Vote." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5(1):1-23.
- Cho, Wendy, James Gimpel, and Joshua Dyck. 2005. "Residential Concentration, Political Socialization, and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 68(1): 156-167.

Week of February 19th – State Political Party Politics

- Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver. 1989. "Political Parties, Public Opinion, and State Policy in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 83(3): 729-50.
- Manza, Jeff and Fay Lomax Cook. 2002. "A Democratic Polity?: Three Views of Policy Responsiveness to Public Opinion in the United States." *American Politics Research*, 30 (November): 630-667.

Week of February 26th – State Elections

- +Elazar Chapter 5
- +Niemi and Dyck Chapter 3
- Schaffner, Brian F., Matthew Streb, and Gerald Wright. 2001. "Teams Without Uniforms: The Nonpartisan Ballot in State and Local Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 54 (1):7-30
- Gimpel, James G. and Jason E. Schuknecht. 2001. "Interstate Migration and Electoral Politics." *Journal of Politics*, 63 (February): 207-231.

*** Semester Midpoint ***

Week of March 5th – Exam Week

Midterm Exam – March 7th

Week of March 12th – Spring Break

*** No Classes – Spring Break – March 12th – 16th ***

Week of March 19th – State Legislatures

- Squire, Peverill. 1993. "Professionalization and Public Opinion of State Legislatures." *Journal of Politics*, 55 (May): 479-491.
- Squire, Peverill. 2006. "Historical Evolution of Legislatures in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 19-44.
- Meinke, Scott R., and Edward B. Hasecke. 2003. Term Limits, Professionalization, and Partisan Control in U.S. State Legislatures. *Journal of Politics* 65 (3):898.

*** Withdrawal Deadline – March 19th ***

Week of March 26th – Governors

- Mueller, Keith J. 1985. "Explaining Variation and Change in Gubernatorial Powers, 1960-1982." *Political Research Quarterly*, 38 (3): 424-431.
- Abney, Glenn, and Thomas P. Lauth. 1997. "The Item Veto and Fiscal Responsibility." *Journal of Politics*. 59:882-892.
- Barrilleaux, Charles and Michael Berkman. 2003. "Do Governors Matter? Budgeting Rules and the Politics of State Policymaking." *Political Research Quarterly*, 56 (December): 409-417.

Week of April 2nd – State Courts

- Caldeira, Gregory A. 1983. "On the Reputation of State Supreme Courts." *Political Behavior*, 5 (1): 83-108
- Hall, Melinda Gann. 1992. "Electoral Politics and Strategic Voting in State Supreme Courts." *The Journal of Politics* 54 (May): 427-446
- Cann, Damon M. 2007 "Justice for Sale? Campaign Contributions and Judicial Decisionmaking." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 7(3): 281-97.

Week of April 9th – Bureaucracy

- Sharkansky, I. (1968). Agency Requests, Gubernatorial Support and Budget Success in State Legislatures. *American Political Science Review*, 62(4), 1220-1231.
- Walker, Jack L. 1969. "The Diffusion of Innovations Among the American States." *American Political Science Review*, 63 (September): 880-899.

Week of April 16th – Referendum and Initiatives

- Smith, Daniel and Dustin Fridkin. 2008. "Delegating Direct Democracy: Interparty Legislative Competition and the Adoption of the Initiative in the American states." *The American Political Science Review* 102(3): 333-350.
- Lupia, Arthur, and John G. Matsusaka. 2004. "Direct Democracy: New Approaches to Old Questions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7:463-482.
- Smith, Daniel A. and Caroline Tolbert. 2007. "The Instrumental and Educative Effects of Ballot Measures: Research on Direct Democracy in the American States." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 7(4): 416-45.

Week of April 23rd – TBD State Policy

*** Last Day of Classes – April 25th ***
*** Reading Day – April 26th ***

Week of April 30th

Final Exam – May 2nd @ 8am