

POLS 4650 – State Politics
Class Time: MWF 1:50 – 2:40PM
Classroom: Baldwin 301
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only
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I. Course Description

The study of state politics in the US has much to offer political scientists regardless of whether their interests lie in American Politics. State politics 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”.

This course is designed to offer students a more thorough understanding of politics in the American states and equip them with tools to analyze states and public policy 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, each other, and the national government. The second half of the course is focused primarily on the governing behaviors of state political institutions and the evolution of state politics overtime.

Important Note:

Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic this class will be administered using an asynchronous hybrid pedagogical model. Of the approaches the university is permitting this Spring, the asynchronous hybrid approach is the most flexible for students (...but probably the most demanding for faculty).

You will be able to attend classes in person if you like, but I am not going to coerce any of you into risking your health by requiring attendance. We will make use of Zoom during the class periods to allow those of you who are not attending in person to tune in for the lectures. Lecture content will also be recorded and posted to eLC for asynchronous viewing. To be perfectly clear: you will be able to successfully complete this course without ever stepping foot in the classroom.

Please refer to pages 9 and 10 for more information about coronavirus and your responsibilities as part of our University community.

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

Your performance in this class will be measured using three (3) reflection papers, a research paper that I have broken up into four component parts, and a final exam. The reflection papers will ask you to select three weeks of the course for which you will write a reflective essay based on the readings. As an upper division political science course, the research paper will take the form of a political science research report like many of the articles you will be reading in the class this semester. Instructions for both the reflection papers and research papers will be posted to eLC assignment folders. The final exam is a written exam, it is a 'take-home' exam, and it is comprehensive of the course.

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

Item	Weight	Date
Reflection Papers (x3)	30%	-----
Research Paper	40%	-----
<i>Research Question Paper</i>	(10%)	February 12 th
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	February 26 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	March 26 th
<i>Final Paper</i>	(10%)	April 30 th
Final Exam	30%	May 5 th

(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) Disability Disclosure Statement

Abled-ness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. For more information please check out the DRC's website (www.uga.drc.edu). The DRC is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone at 706.542.8719.

(3.2) Student Athletes

Representing our university in athletics places some unusual scheduling obligations on you. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about your schedule so we can make sure you are able to achieve in the classroom as well as on the field or in the arena.

(3.3) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate excuses.

(3.4) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of ten points for each calendar day late (10 calendar days makes a 'missed assignment').

(3.5) 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, please examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.6) Problems and Emergencies

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

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Tuesday, March 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a "WF".

IV) Course Schedule

Week 1 – January 13th and 15th – Introductions

Syllabus

Introductions

Week 2 – January 20th and 22nd – Origins of State Politics in the US

Greene, Jack. 1993. “Colonial Political Culture.” in Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies (eds. Cooke, Jacob). Gale Publishing: Farmington Hill, MI.

Dargo, George. 1993. “The Framework of Government: England and Its Colonies.” in Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies (eds. Cooke, Jacob). Gale Publishing: Farmington Hill, MI.

Parillo, Vincent. 2009. “Diversity in Colonial Times.” in Diversity in America. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

*****January 18th – MLK Day – No Classes*****

Week 3 – January 25th, 27th, and 29th – State Politics Under the Articles

Madison, J., 1787. “Vices of the political system of the United States.”

Greene, J.P., 1982. “The background of the Articles of Confederation.” *Publius*, 12(4), pp.15-44.

Cain, M.J. and Dougherty, K.L., 1999. “Suppressing Shays' Rebellion: Collective action and constitutional design under the Articles of Confederation.” *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 11(2), pp.233-260.

Week 4 – February 1st, 3rd, and 5th – States and The Constitution

The Constitution of the United States

Federalist 44, 45

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

[Elazar Chapter 1](#)

Galva, J.E., Atchison, C. and Levey, S., 2005. Public health strategy and the police powers of the state. *Public Health Reports*, 120(1_suppl), pp.20-27.

Week 5 – February 8th, 10th, and 12th – Federalism and State Politics, Part 1

[Elazar Chapters 2 & 4](#)

[Niemi and Dyck chapter 1](#)

Selection from Elazar (1986) American Federalism: A View from the States.

Fitzpatrick, J.L. and Hero, R.E., 1988. Political culture and political characteristics of the American states: A consideration of some old and new questions. *Western Political Quarterly*, 41(1), pp.145-153.

February 12th – Research Question Paper Due

Week 6 – February 15th and 19th – Federalism and State Politics, Part 2

Hofferbert, Richard I. 1966. “The Relation Between Public Policy and Some Structural and Environmental Variables in the American States.” *The American Political Science Review*, 60 (March): 73-82.

Weingast, B.R., 1995. The economic role of political institutions: Market-preserving federalism and economic development. *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*, pp.1-31.

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

February 17th – Instructional Break #1

Week 7 – February 22nd, 24th, and 26th – From Territory to State

Squire, Peverill. 2012. “The Missing Link: Territorial Legislatures.” in The Evolution of State Legislatures: Colonies, Territories, and States 1619-2009. University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, MI.

Biber, E., 2004. The Price of Admission: Causes, Effects, and Patterns of Conditions Imposed on States Entering the Union. *Am. J. Legal Hist.*, 46, p.119.

[Cheatham, Amelia. “Puerto Rico: A Territory in Crisis.” Council on Foreign Relations.](#)

February 26th – Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due

Week 8 – March 1st, 3rd, and 5th – State Constitutions

[Niemi and Dyck Chapter 2](#)

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

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

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.

Week 9 – March 8th and 10th – 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.

Berry, William D., Michael B. Berkman, Stuart Schneiderman. 2000. "Legislative Professionalism and Incumbent Reelection: The Development of Institutional Boundaries." *American Political Science Review*, 94 (December): 859-874.

*****March 12th – Instructional Break #2*****

Week 10 – March 15th, 17th, and 19th – State Executives and Bureaucracies

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.

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 11 – March 22nd, 24th, and 26th – State Courts

[Niemi and Dyck Chapter 22](#)

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.

*****March 26th – Empirical Research Design Paper Due*****

*****March 23rd – Withdrawal Deadline*****

Week 12 – March 29th, 31st, and April 2nd – State Parties

[Niemi and Dyck Chapter 9](#)

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 13 – April 5th, 7th, and 9th – 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.

*****April 8th – Instructional Break #3*****

Week 14 – April 12th, 14th, and 16th – Elections in the States

[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

Gimble, James G. and Jason E. Schuknecht. 2001. "Interstate Migration and Electoral Politics." *Journal of Politics*, 63 (February): 207-231.

Week 15 – April 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Referenda and Initiatives

Lupia, Arthur, and John G. Matsusaka. 2004. "Direct Democracy: New Approaches to Old Questions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7:463-482.

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.

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 16 – April 26th, 28th, and 30th – The Nationalization of State Politics

Morehouse, Sarah M. and Malcolm E. Jewell. 2004. "States as Laboratories: A Reprise." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 177-203.

Sievert, J. and McKee, S.C., 2019. Nationalization in US Senate and gubernatorial elections. *American Politics Research*, 47(5), pp.1055-1080.

Zingher, J.N. and Richman, J., 2019. Polarization and the nationalization of state legislative elections. *American Politics Research*, 47(5), pp.1036-1054.

April 30th – Final Paper Due

Week 17 – May 5th – Final Exam

May 4th – Star Wars Day/Reading Day

Coronavirus Information for Students

Face Coverings:

Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation

n related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

DawgCheck:

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is **required** to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.