

POLS 4650 – State Politics
Class Time: T/TH 2:20 – 3:35PM
Classroom: Baldwin 101D
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only
Office Location: Baldwin 380a
Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

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.

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 and a research paper that I have broken up into four (4) component parts.

Prompts will be provided for each of the three reflection papers along with a handout explaining in more detail about writing reflective essays. These essays will challenge you to think on a generally deep level about the major concepts and discoveries made in state politics research.

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.

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

Item	Weight	Date
Reflection Papers (x3)	60%	
<i>On Federalism</i>	(20%)	February 16 th
<i>On Territories</i>	(20%)	March 2 nd
<i>On Nationalization of State Politics</i>	(20%)	May 1 st
Research Paper	40%	
<i>Research Question Paper</i>	(10%)	February 2 nd
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	February 23 rd
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	March 16 th
<i>Final Paper</i>	(10%)	May 1 st

(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

Ableness 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 Thursday, March 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV) Course Schedule

Week 1 – January 10th and 12th – Introductions

Syllabus

Introductions

Harsell, D.M., Flynn, D.T. and Jendrysik, M.S., 2023. Park Free or Die: Rural Consciousness, Preemption, and the Perennial North Dakota Parking-Meter Debate. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56(1), pp.3-9.

*****Drop/Add Period – January 9th – 13th*****

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – 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.

*****MLK Day – No Classes – January 16th*****

Week 3 – January 24th and 26th – 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 – January 31st and February 2nd – States and The Constitution

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 7th and 9th – 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.

Week 6 – February 14th and 16th – 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)

Week 7 – February 21st and 23rd – Territories

Selection from E.E. Schattschneider's The Semi-Sovereign People

Immerwahr, D., 2016. The greater United States: Territory and empire in US history. *Diplomatic History*, 40(3), pp.373-391.

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.

Stayman, A.P., 2009. US territorial policy: trends and current challenges.

Week 8 – February 28th and March 2nd – From Territory to State

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.

Albright, R.E., 1934. Politics and Public Opinion in the Western Statehood Movement of the 1880's. *Pacific Historical Review*, 3(3), pp.296-306.

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

*****Semester Midpoint – March 2nd*****

Week 9 – March 7th and 9th – Spring Break

*****Spring Break – No Classes – March 6th – 10th*****

Week 10 – March 14th and 16th – 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 11 – March 21st and 23rd – 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.

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

Week 12 – March 28th and 30th – 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.

Week 13 – April 4th and 6th – 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.

Week 14 – April 11th and 13th – Elections in the States

- Gray, Virginia. 1976. "A Note on Competition and Turnout in the American States." *The Journal of Politics* 38(1): 153-158.
- Cho, Wendy, James Gimpel, and Joshua Dyck. 2005. "Residential Concentration, Political Socialization, and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 68(1): 156-167.
- 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
- 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.

Week 15 – April 18th and 20th – 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 16 – April 25th and 27th – 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.

Week 17 – May 1st – Final Papers Due

*****Last Day of Classes – May 1st*****

*****Reading Day – May 2nd*****

*****Star Wars Day – May 4th*****