

POLS 4650 – State Politics
Class Day/Time: MWF 9:10 – 10:00am
Classroom: Baldwin Hall 102
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: MW 2pm – 3pm

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

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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.

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 as well as many, many scholarly articles from peer-reviewed academic outlets.

(2.2) Course Assignments & Attendance

Your performance in this class will be measured using three (3) reflection papers, three (3) applied social science problem sets, and a research paper that I have broken up into two (2) component parts.

The reflective essays are designed to challenge you to think on a generally deep level about the major concepts and relationships discovered in state politics research. The problem sets are designed to challenge you to think scientifically about state politics, from theorizing and hypothesizing about a variety of topics in the state politics literature to the collective, analysis, and visualization of quantitative data. Finally, as an upper division political science course, the research paper will take the form of a political science research report much like most of the articles you will be reading in the class this semester.

Attendance will be tracked and scored. State politics is a complicated subject and there many concepts, caveats, considerations, ins and outs and what-have-yous that will come up in class...a lot of important stuff that you will need to know to succeed in the class. And most weeks will have a methodology day in which we focus on how we can design scientific research.

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

Item	Weight	Date
Reflection Papers (x3)	30%	
<i>On Federalism</i>	10%	February 14 th
<i>On Territories</i>	10%	March 14 th
<i>On Nationalization of State Politics</i>	10%	April 25 th
Problem Sets	30%	
<i>Sampling</i>	10%	February 28 th
<i>Measurement</i>	10%	March 21 st
<i>Analysis</i>	10%	April 4 th
Research Paper	30%	
<i>Front End Paper</i>	10%	February 7 th
<i>Final Paper/Poster</i>	20%	April 28 th
Attendance	10%	Daily

(2.4) Grading

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

A	=	94-100	C+	=	77
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	87	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement

Able-bodiedness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom, your breakout sessions, and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Accessibility & Testing (A&T) office as soon as possible. For more information, please check out A&T's website (<https://accessibility.uga.edu/>). The A&T office 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) Absences

John Lennon once said, “Life happens while you’re busy making other plans.” Attending class is critical for your success in this class. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and there is a significant amount of course content that we will cover in our class meetings and breakout sessions. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am reasonable).

Please do not come to class if you are ill. The UGA Health Center (www.uhs.uga.edu) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.4) Missed/Late Assignments

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

(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 the teaching assistant assigned to your CRN as soon as possible.

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Silence notifications on your devices or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be excellent to each other!

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Thursday, April 3rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule

Week 1 – January 6th & 8th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus & Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1 (see eLC Content Folder)

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 6th – 10th

Week 2 – January 13th, 15th, and 17th – Politics in the North American Colonies

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.

Week 3 – January 22nd, and 24th – States and the Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation

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.

MLK Day – January 20th – No Classes

Week 4 – January 27th, 29th, and 31st – States and The US Constitution

Federalist no. 44 & no. 45

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

[Elazar Chapter 1](#)

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

Barnett, R.E., 2003. The proper scope of the police power. *Notre Dame L. Rev.*, 79, p.429.

Week 5 – February 3rd, 5th, and 7th – The Many Faces of Federalism

[Elazar Chapters 2 & 4](#)

Merritt, D.J., 1994. Three Faces of Federalism: Finding a Formula for the Future. *Vand. L. Rev.*, 47, p.1563.

Conlan, T.J. and Dudley, R.L., 2005. Janus-faced federalism: State sovereignty and federal preemption in the Rehnquist court. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 38(3), pp.363-366.

Cooter, Robert D. and Neil S. Siegel. 2012. “Collective Action Federalism: A General Theory of Article I, Section 8.” in Ginsburg, T. Comparative Constitutional Design. (see eLC Content Folder)

Front End Paper Due – Friday, February 7th

Week 6 – February 10th, 12th, and 14th – Territories

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

Hill, R.S., 1988. Federalism, Republicanism, and the Northwest Ordinance. *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, 18(4), pp.41-52.

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

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.

Reflective Essay #1: On Federalism Due – Friday, February 14th

Week 7 – February 17th, 19th, and 21st – From Territory to State

Hamilton, James. 1970. "Making Montana a State." (see eLC Content Folder)

Larson, T.A. 1978. "Wyoming Statehood." (see eLC Content Folder)

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.](#)

Week 8 – February 24th, 26th, and 28th – Methods Week!

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." *World Politics* 49 (3): 430-451.

Selection from John Stuart Mill's A System of Logic. "Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry."

Collier, D., 1991. "The comparative method: Two decades of change." *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, HarperCollins Publishers.

John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354.

George and Bennett. 2005. "The Method of Focus, Structured Comparison." in Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences. The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. (see eLC)

Problem Set #1: Sampling Due – Friday, February 28th

Semester Midpoint – February 27th

Week 9 – March 3rd through 7th – Spring Break

*** No Classes***

Week 10 – March 10th, 12th, and 14th – State Constitutions

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

Natelson, R.G., 2002. The Enumerated Powers of States. *Nev. LJ*, 3, p.469.

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.

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.

Reflective Essay #2: On Territories Due – Friday, March 14th

Week 11 – March 17th, 19th, and 21st – 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.

Problem Set #2: Measurement Due – Friday, March 21st

Week 12 – March 24th, 26th, and 28th – 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.

Robinson, J.E., 1998. The role of the independent political executive in state governance: Stability in the face of change. *Public Administration Review*, pp.119-128.

Lauth, T.P., 2016. The Other Six: Governors Without The Line-Item Veto. *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 36(4), pp.26-49.

Week 13 – March 31st, April 2nd and 4th – 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.

Problem Set #3: Analysis Due – Friday, April 4th

Withdrawal Deadline – Thursday, April 3rd

Week 14 – April 7th, 9th, and 11th – 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 14th, 16th, and 18th – 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 16 – April 21st, 23rd, and 25th – Workshop Week

Reflective Essay #3 Due: On the Nationalization of State Politics – Friday, April 25th

Week 17 – April 28th

Final Paper & Poster Due – April 28th

Reading Day – Tuesday, April 29th