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PSC 595.01: State Government Seminar

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STATE GOVERNMENT SEMINAR
Helena MPA Program
PSc 595 Spring Semester 1999
Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. DNRC Conference Room

TEXTS

The State of The States, 3rd Edition (edited by Charles Van Horn)
Annual Editions: State and Local Government (edited by Stinebrickner)
State and Local Government, 4th Edition by Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney (OPTIONAL TO BUY, copies of
the 3rd edition will be placed on reserve. The chapters listed in the syllabus for Bowman & Kearney are from the 4th
edition. There are some differences in the chapter sequence between the 3rd and 4th editions).

COURSE DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

State government is one of the most exciting areas in political science. This course examines the evolution
and development that has taken place in the states since the founding period. It focuses on the basic institutions as
well as a broad spectrum of public policy issues that affect governing in the states. The objective of the course is to
provide a forum to discuss and wide range of issues involving state government. The theme of the class is the
Bowman and Kearney notion that there has been a "resurgence of the states."

Grades will be based on writing abstracts for the articles included in Annual Editions: State and Local
Government and on class participation. The abstracts are due on the last class. On the final night of class we will
discuss the following question. Evaluate the evidence that suggests there has been resurgence in the states' ability
to govern during the past 30 years. Do you agree or disagree?

PROFESSOR Jeffrey Greene, Ph.D.

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ATTENDANCE: Students are encouraged to attend class. Poor attendance may affect one's final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Session 1 Introduction No readings (January 27)

Session 2 Images of the States and Political Culture (February 3)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1
Van Horn: Chapter 1, "The Quiet Revolution"
CQ: Chapter 1, Politics in the 1990s
"A Tale of Two Taxes: The NJ and VA Gubernatorial Elections of 1997" by Semiatin
"Why Its Hard To Fix Campaign Finance" by Rosenthal
"Buyer Beware: Ten Tip for Evaluating Polls" by Link and Olendick
Annual Editions: Chapter 1, Overview (Includes Federalist No. 17 and No. 45, and The Nature
of the American State).

Session 3 Federalism (February 10)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 2
Annual Editions: Unit 2 ("Judicial Federalism" by Wise; "The Devil in Devolution" by Donahue; "Power Grab" by Carney; "Devolution Part II" by Mackey; "Whose Schools?" by Mathesian).

Session 4 State Constitutions and Political Participation (February 17)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 3, 4
Van Horn: Chapter 4, "The Transformation of State Electoral Politics", by Salmore and Salmore.
CQ: Chapter 2, Direct Democracy ("Direct Democracy Works" by Price; "Voter Initiatives on Race and Sex Preferences" by Hovey; "A Time Line of Term Limits" by Peery).
CQ: Chapter 4, Media and The States ("The Endless Struggle Over Open Meetings" by Mathesian; "Ten Commandments of Media Salvation" by Lustberg).

Session 5 Political Parties and Interest Groups (February 24)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 5
CQ: Chapter 3, Politics: Parties, Interest Groups, and PACs ("Politics and Marketing Merge in Parties’ Bid for Relevance" by Greenblatt; "A Rationale for Strong Political Parties" by Van Der Slik; "Alaska’s Fringe: The Parties Future" by Widof; "Influence Pedlers" by Krohe).

Session 6 State Legislatures (March 3)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9
CQ: Chapter 5, State Legislatures ("Legislatures and the Salary Mismatch Syndrome" by Ehrenhalt; "Fatigue on the Right" by Gurwitt; "Public Knowledge" by Rosenthal).

Session 7 Governors (March 10)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7
Van Horn: Chapter 5, "Being Governor", by Thad Beyle
CQ: Chapter 6, Governors and the Executive Branch State Legislatures ("The Political Style of Jim Guy Tucker" by English; "Can States Give Washington A Lesson in Veto Politics?" by Hosansky; "Ganging Up On The Governors" by Mathesian).

Session 8 SPRING BREAK - March 15-19 No Class

Session 9 NO CLASS - Western Political Science Association Conference in Seattle (March 24)

Session 10 The Judiciary and Criminal Justice Policy (March 31)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 9, 16
CQ: Chapter 8, State Courts ("Happy Anniversary" by Buchbaum; Judicial Impeachment Rare, Removal Would Make History" by Davis and Sevenar; "Republicans Make Grab for Illinois Supreme Court" by Joens) CQ: Chapter 9, "Taking Your Prison back from the Feds" by Penelope Lemov

Session 11 The Bureaucracy (April 7)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8
Van Horn, Chapter 8, "Accountability Battles in State Administration", by William Gormley.
CQ: Chapter 7, State Bureaucracies and Administration ("Who Needs Civil Service?" by Walters; "Did Somebody Say Downsizing?" by Walters; "State Trends" by Chi).
Annual Editions: Unit 4, Ethics and Administration ("Have Ethics’ Laws Gone Too Far?" by Williams; "Reinventing Government—Not Easy but Possible" by Snell).

Session 12 State-Local Relations, Finance, and Taxation (April 14)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13
CQ: Chapter 9, Local Government, ("Nobody in Charge" by Gurwitt; "The Politics of Ugliness" by Mathesian; "The Trouble with Zoning" by Ehrenhalt).

Session 13 Public Policy and State Issues: Education & Welfare Policy (April 21)
(Article Abstracts due from Annual Editions)
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 15 & 17
Van Horn: Chapter 9, "State Education Policy in the 1990s" by Goertz
CQ: Chapter 10 ("Charter Schools Learn a Few Lessons" by Mathesian; School Funding in Ohio and Other States" by Saffell).

Discussion of Resurgence Theme
Van Horn: Chapter 10, "Power to the States."

PSc 595 State Government—Helena MPA