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PSCI 344.01: State and Local Government

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PSCI 344

PSCI 344 / State & Local Government Syllabus

PSCI 344 / Summer II, 2012 (June 25 - July 27)

M-R 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m. / Location: LA 337

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

TEXTS

Primary: *State and Local Government: The Essentials*, 5/e (Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney)

Students can use any edition (full or essentials) of the Bowman and Kearney text. The latest full edition is the 8/e. The syllabus is set for The Essentials edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 theme of this course is built on one primary question: *Has there been a resurgence of the states?* That is, *have states increased their capacity to govern, manage change, and innovate in various areas of public policy?*

The primary objective of the course is to acquaint students with the complexities of state government and state politics. Local government is not covered in the summer version of the class. Upon successful completion of the course students should acquire considerable knowledge about comparative state government and politics in the states. Assessment is based on students' performance on two exams. Additional learning objectives are provided at **PSCI 344 Learning Objectives** on the online syllabus (see the bottom of the syllabus for the URL).

GRADE WEIGHTS

Midterm Exam50% (July 11, Thursday)

Final Exam50% (July 25, Wednesday)

There is not a paper or presentation required in the summer version of PSCI 344.

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Office Hours: 1:30 - 2 p.m. (Monday, Tuesday, or by appointment)

The **University of Montana** now uses a version of the **Plus/Minus** grading system and a **Credit/No Credit** system (the CR/NCR replaces the Pass/Fail system used in the past). *General education courses must be taken using the traditional letter grade to count toward one's general education requirements.*

To accommodate the Plus/Minus system the grading scale shown below will be used. In **PSCI 344** grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale. This scale and system is more complex than the system used in the past but rewards As only to those students whose performance in the class is "exceptional."

Grade	Point Scale	Point Range	GPA
A	93-100	8 points	4.00
A-	90-92	3 points	3.67
B+	87-89	3 points	3.33
B	83-86	4 points	3.00
B-	80-82	3 points	2.67
C+	77-79	3 points	2.33
C	73-76	4 points	2.00
C-	70-72	3 points	1.67
D+	67-69	3 points	1.33
D	63-66	4 points	1.00
D-	60-62	3 points	.067
F	59 or lower	N/A	0.00

REQUIREMENTS: All exams will be given in class. Students are expected to take the exams during the scheduled time. The exams for the summer session will be subjective (terms and essays). No paper is required in the summer version of the course.

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

WEB PAGE: Students can visit the **Political Science Department** Web Page at:
<http://www.cas.umt.edu/polsci>

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Political Culture

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Federalism

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 2

State Constitutions

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 3

Participation in the States

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 4

Political Parties in the States

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 5

State Legislatures

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 6

Governors

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7

Midterm Exam – July 14 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned on Monday*

The Bureaucracy

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8

The Judiciary

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

State-Local Relations and Local Government

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 10, 11

Taxing, Spending, and Finance

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 12

Final Exam – July 25 (Wednesday) Exams will be returned Thursday, July 26.

[Federalism Time Line Transparency](#) (Adobe Acrobat format. This version is *printer friendly*)

[Learning Objectives](#)

[Link to the Montana State Constitution](#)

[History of Federalism](#) (Link to website at the University of South Carolina; this is an outstanding website about federalism)

Link to [Governing.com](#), one of the best sources of information about the state and local arena available.

[Council of State Governments](#), the leading professional organization for the states.

Link to [City Journal](#), one of the most interesting sources about urban politics and issues.

State Budget Paper and Information

[Paper about Montana's State Budget](#)

For anyone interested in the state budget, this is an annual paper written for the Western Political Science Association about Montana's budget.

Some additional links to materials

[ELITE AND PLURALISM MODELS](#) (In Microsoft Word)

[SOCIAL STRATIFICATION MODEL](#) (In Adobe Acrobat format)

[SOURCES OF VALUES](#) (In Adobe Acrobat format)

New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, and Hurricane Katrina dominated the news in 2005 and continues to be important issues about federalism. Many claimed that it was a perfect example (and case study) about the weaknesses of federalism and intergovernmental relations. Below is an interesting article about New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina.

This article, from *City Journal*, is an interesting account of New Orleans. It is called "Who is killing New Orleans," by Nicole Gelinas. [Click here](#) for a copy of the article in Adobe Acrobat, or click this link to go directly to the article at *City Journal*.

http://www.city-journal.org/html/15_4_new_orleans.html

An article found in *Governing Magazine* about federalism is located at <http://www.governing.com/topics/economic-dev/The-Katrina-Breakdown.html> The article is about the communication breakdown among various levels of government and between agencies. "THE KATRINA BREAKDOWN," by Jonathan Walters & Donald Kettl. (Please note that *Governing* is updating their website and this link may not work).

Another very interesting website is located in Montana. It is called [Project Vote Smart](#). It contains detailed information about candidates in all 50 states at the national and state level.

Houghton Mifflin (now owned by Cengage) provides excellent online resources for the Bowman and Kearney text, including exams, outlines, and many links to state-local web sites. [Click here to access these resources](#). (This website is for *The Essentials* edition). For the 8/e, Cengage has made it a little harder to access. You will need to click on the long link (URL) at the bottom of the syllabus. To use some of the features you will have to register and use the code that came with your book. Also, [Stateline.org](#) is a great website dedicated entirely to news and information about the states and their local governments. Another website is [Piperinfo.com](#), which contains information about state and local governments.

Since state nicknames are often mentioned in class as trivia, [click here](#) to read more about the origin of the Tar Heel State (North Carolina). State mottos are also interesting. For example, the state motto for North Carolina, "*Esse Quam Videri*" is Latin for "to be rather than to seem." [Click here](#) for a humorous version of the 50 state mottos. [Click here](#) for a list of official state slogans and official nicknames.

[Rankings for "happiest states" for 2009](#)

[Study Guide Exam 1](#)

[Study Guide Exam 2](#)

Student Website for the Bowman & Kearney text, 8/e (You can purchase this book as an e-Textbook at the following link) and website for The Essential, 5/e

http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9780495802655&disciplinenum=20

http://college.cengage.com/polisci/bowman_kearney/state_local_gov/5e/students/index.html (Link to the 5/e website)