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Summer 6-1-2011

### PSCI 344.01: State and Local Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

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# PSCI 344

## PSCI 344 / State & Local Government Syllabus

PSCI 344 / Summer II, 2011 (June 27 - July 29)

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

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

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### TEXTS

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

### 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 Exam .....50% (July 14, Thursday)

Final Exam .....50% (July 27, Wednesday)

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

**PROFESSOR:** Jeffrey D. Greene

**OFFICE:** LA 356

**Telephone:** 243-6181

**E-mail:** jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

**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>

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## 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 27** (Wednesday) Exams will be returned Thursday, July 28.

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