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PSC 364.01: State and Local Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

University of Montana - Missoula, jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

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PSc 364 / State & Local Government Syllabus

Summer II, 2007 (June 25 - July 27)

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

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

TEXTS

Primary: *State and Local Government*, 7/e (Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney)

Supplements: *The State of The States* 4/e (Charles Van Horn) *This supplemental reader is optional*

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 [PSc 364 Learning Objectives](#) on the online syllabus.

GRADE WEIGHTS

Midterm Exam50%

Final Exam50%

There is not a paper or presentation required in the summer version of PSc 364.

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356

Telephone: 243-6181

E-mail: jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

Office Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 (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 **PSc 364** 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	.67
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. The online syllabus, <http://www.umt.edu/polsci/faculty/greene/3642007S.htm> provides numerous resources that will be helpful for the class.

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.umt.edu/polsci>

*Please note that there will not be any classes on **July 4**. It is an official holiday and the University will be closed.*

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University requires that this statement be placed on all syllabuses at the University of Montana.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

*All students need to be familiar with the **Student Conduct Code**. The Code is available for review online at: <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>*

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Van Horn: Chapter 1, "Power, Politics, and Public Policy in the States," by Van Horn

Political Culture

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Federalism

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 2

Van Horn: Chapter 2, "The Role of the States in American Federalism," by R. Nathan.

State Constitutions

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 3

Participation in the States

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 4

Van Horn: Chapter 2, "The State of State Elections," by Dautrich and Yalof

Political Parties in the States

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 5

Van Horn: Chapter 4, "The Transformation of State Electoral Politics," by Salmore and Salmore.

State Legislatures

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 6

Van Horn: Chapter 3, "Legislators and Legislatures," by Rosenthal.

Governors

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7

Van Horn: Chapter 4, "Being Governor," by Beyle.

Midterm Exam - July 12 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned on Monday*

The Bureaucracy

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8

Van Horn, Chapter 6, "Accountability Battles in State Administration," by Gormley.

The Judiciary

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

Van Horn: Chapter 5, "State Courts and Their Political Environment," by Lawrence Baum.

Local Government

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 10, 11

State-Local Relations

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13

Van Horn: Chapter 11, "State Government Finances," by Coleman

Public Policy in the States (*The class will cover as many policy topics as time permits*)

Education, Economic Development, Criminal Justice, the Environment

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 14,15,16,17,18

Van Horn: Chapters 8, 9, and 10 (Education Policy, Welfare Policy, and Health Policy).

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