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PSC 364.01: State and Local Government

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PSc 364 / State & Local Government Syllabus

PSc 364 / Summer II, 2006 (June 26 - July 28)

M-Th 9:30 a.m. - 11:20 p.m. / Location: LA 337

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

TEXTS

Primary: *State and Local Government: The Essentials* 3/e (Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney)

Supplements: *The State of The States* 4/e (Charles Van Horn)

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](#). *Please note that PSc 364 now used the Essentials edition of the Bowman and Kearney textbook. This is a much shorter text than the full edition.*

GRADE WEIGHTS

Midterm Exam50%

Final Exam50%

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

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Office Hours: 11:30 p.m. - noon (Monday, Tuesday)

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 a new grading scale 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	.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.umt.edu/polsci>

*Please note that there will not be any classes on **July 4**. It is an official holiday for the Fourth of July 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: New Directions for State and Local Governments

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: Chapter 2

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 13 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned on Monday*

The Bureaucracy and Public Budgeting

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.

State-Local Relations

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 10

Local Government

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 11

Taxing and Spending

Bowman and Kearney, Chapter 12

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

Public Policy in the States

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

Final Exam – July 26 (Wednesday) *Exams will be returned Thursday, July 27.*

Summer 2006 / Posted April 5, 2006

State & Local Government Syllabus / Prof. Greene

Class Materials and Transparencies

[Study Guide Exam 1](#)

[Study Guide Exam 2](#)

[Federalism Time Line Transparency](#)

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

[Learning Objectives](#)

[Link to the Montana State Constitution](#)

[Link for the History of Federalism](#) (*This is a good overview of the history of federalism*)

The federalism article is also located at <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/politics/states/federal.htm>

[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.

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. 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 an 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

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 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](#). (If asked for a username and password, the username/password needed to access certain parts of this website is government/rules). You will find this time line useful for the final exam's major essay. 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. The HMCO website is for the 6/e of the full text and can be used for this class. We are using the *Essentials* edition in this class.

The website the *Essentials* edition is http://www.college.hmco.com/polisci/bowman_kearney/state_local_gov_essentials/3e/student_home.html

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.

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