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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

PSc 364 / Summer II, 2005 (June 27 - July 29)

M-F 10:50 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. / Location: LA 337

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

TEXTS

Primary: *State and Local Government* 6th Edition (Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney)

Supplements: *The State of The States* 3rd Edition (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 on the online syllabus, which can be accessed at <http://www.umt.edu/polsci/greene/3642005s.htm>

GRADE WEIGHTS

Midterm Exam50%

Final Exam50%

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356

Telephone: 243-6181

E-mail: jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

Office Hours: 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. (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 the grade of "A" 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** (Monday). It is an official holiday for the Fourth of July and the University will be closed.*

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Van Horn: Chapter 1, "The Quiet Revolution."

Political Culture

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Federalism

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 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

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 6, "The Legislature," by Alan Rosenthal.

Governors

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7

Van Horn: Chapter 5, "Being Governor," by Thad Beyle.

Midterm Exam – July 15 (Friday)

The Bureaucracy

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8

Van Horn, Chapter 8, "Accountability Battles in State Administration," by William Gormley.

The Judiciary

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

Van Horn: Chapter 7, "Supreme Courts in the Policy Process," by Lawrence Baum.

State-Local Relations

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13

Van Horn: Chapter 3, "State Budgeting Problems, Choices, and Money," by Henry Raimondo.

Overview of Local Government *(One section is reserved for an overview of local government. This class will provide a general overview of cities, counties, the structure of local government, and a brief introduction to urban politics). This class may be omitted due to time constraints. Typically, in the summer session, we try to spend as much time as possible on public policy in the states -- the final chapters of the Bowman and Kearney textbook.*

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 10, 11

Public Policy in the States *(The class will cover as many policy topics as time permits. During the summer session it is often not possible to cover all of the policy areas included in the main textbook).*

Education, Economic Development, Criminal Justice, The Environment

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

Van Horn: Chapters 9,10, "State Education Policy," by M. Goertz; "State Welfare Policy," by I. Lurie.

Federal-State Relations in the New Century

Van Horn: Chapter 11, "Power to the States," by Van Horn

Final Exam – July 28 (Thursday) Exams will be returned on Friday, July 29

*Summer 2005, Second Session
State & Local Government Syllabus / Prof. Greene*