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PSC 364.01: State and Local Government

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State & Local Government Syllabus

PSc 364 / Summer II, 2004 (June 28 - July 30)

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

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

TEXTS

Primary: *State and Local Government* 5th Edition (Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney)

Supplements: *The State of The States* 3rd Edition (Charles Van Horn) and *Who Runs for the State Legislature?* (by Moncrief, Squire, and Jewell)

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](#).

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, Wednesday)

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>

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 16 (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.*)

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 29 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned on Friday, July 30*

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](#)

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)

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

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. *The username is government and the password is rules*). You will find this time line useful for the final exam's major essay. [Click here](#) to access many state and local government resources on the Internet, including links to all 50 state websites. Also, [Stateline.org](#) is a great website dedicated entirely to news and information about the states and their 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.

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