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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 / Fall Semester 2007 / CRN 73513

M-Th 3:40 - 5 p.m. / Location: LA 338

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) *Optional book; not required*

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

Exam # 1.....50% (Thursday, October 11)

Exam # 2.....50% (Thursday, November 15)

Presentations will begin on Tuesday, November 20.

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356 **Telephone:** 243-6181 **E-mail:** jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

Office Hours: 3:30 - 4 p.m. (Mondays); 2-2:30 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 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). 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 will be subjective (terms and essays). All students will be expected to either write a 10 page research paper **or** make a 10-15 minute oral presentation on a topic related to state and local government and provide a written bibliography. *Typically, public policy areas are the most popular.* All topics must be approved by the instructor. The last weeks of class will be used for presentations. Note that the paper/presentation is an either/or option. Students may select either option, but presentations must be scheduled during the third week of class. A sign-up sheet will be passed out in class. All papers are due the last day of class prior to exam week.

Political Science 300 or 400: Students can take this class as PSc 300 or PSc 400 -- *the writing class option*. You do not have to be a political science major to take PSc 300 but you **MUST** be a political science major to take PSc 400. This is a one credit hour class that can be used to fulfill the university writing requirement. *PSc 300 is the lower division class; PSc 400 is the upper division class.* If you opt to sign up for PSc 300 or 400, you must get the approval of the instructor; fill out the appropriate paperwork, then turn the completed paperwork to the department secretary in LA 350 during the first week of class. It is the discretion of the instructor to allow more than 10 PSc 300 or PSc 400 students in any political science class. The requirements to complete PSc 300 or PSc 400 are described below.

All students using PSc 364 as a writing class must be properly signed up for PSc 300 or PSc 400. Students taking this option are required to write an 8 to 10 page research paper for PSc 300 (*a 10 to 12 page paper for PSc 400*) on a topic related to state and local government. The topic must be approved by the instructor in advance (*before beginning the paper*). These papers will be graded more rigorously than for students not taking PSc 300 or 400. Students will be allowed one re-write for their research papers. There is not a universally accepted writing style format to follow; writing styles vary from discipline to discipline. The political science department tends to use Kate Turabian's, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. You do not have to use this writer's manual for this class, but you will likely have to use it for other writing classes with other professors in the political science department. Thus, it is advisable to use the Turabian model. All papers are expected to contain a cover sheet, a bibliography, and appropriate citations. **Students taking the writing option cannot sign up for a presentation.**

The **first draft** of the paper is due on **Tuesday, November 27**. The papers will receive two letter grades; one for content (the quality of the research) and separate grade for writing (composure, grammar, writing style, and clarity). The second grade is a technical grade and the standard that will be used is based on the technical writing style of social science research. That is, sentence structure should be clean, clear, and concise. *The goal is to write a short, well-crafted, organized paper that is easy to read.* After the first draft is graded, the papers will be returned and students will make any corrections and re-submit the paper by the **last day of regular classes** (*the last day prior to exam week, which is **December 6***). The papers will be re-graded. The final grade for PSc 300 or 400 will be based solely on the average of the content/writing grade for the final paper. For example, if the final grade on the paper is A/C (92/75), the student will receive a grade of a "B" (the average is 83.5).

ATTENDANCE: Students are encouraged to attend class. Poor attendance may affect one's final grade. Students are expected to miss no more than five (5) classes. Missing more than five days may result in a drop in a letter grade.

WEB PAGE: Students can visit the **Political Science Department** Web Page at:
<http://www.umt.edu/polsci>

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>

Autumn 2007 Semester Dates

August 27 (Monday) - Classes Begin
September 3 (Monday) - Labor Day, Holiday
November 12 (Monday) Veterans Day Holiday
November 21-22-23 (Wednesday-Thursday-Friday) - Thanksgiving Vacation
December 3-7 (Last week of regular classes)
December 10-14 (Monday-Friday) - Final Examinations

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.

Exam #1 – October 11 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned on Tuesday***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).

Exam #2 – November 15 (Thursday) Exams *will be returned Tuesday, November 20*

Presentations will begin on Tuesday, November 20 through December 6. If necessary, the schedule may be adjusted to accommodate presentations. Normally, about one-third of the class selects presentations.

There are numerous links and useful materials on the online version of this syllabus located at:

<http://www.umt.edu/polsci/faculty/greene/3642007Fall.pdf>