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PSC 364.01: State and Local Government

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PSc 364 / State & Local Government Syllabus

Fall 2006 / T,Th 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. / Location: LA 337 / Professor: Jeffrey Greene

PSc 364 begins on Tuesday, August 29, 2006

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 uses the Essentials edition of the Bowman and Kearney textbook. This is a much shorter text than the full edition. You can still use the 6/e of the full version of the textbook.*

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	.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).

GRADE WEIGHTS for PSc 364 (without the PSc 300 or PSc 400 writing class)

Exam 1	35%	October 12
Exam 2	35%	November 16
Paper/ or Presentation	30%	Presentations will begin on November 28

GRADE WEIGHTS for PSc 364 (with the PSc 300 or PSc 400 writing class)

For students taking PSc 300 or PSc 400 (either course constitutes a separate, one credit hour class), the writing component is separate. In this case, the grade weights for PSc 364 are the same EXCEPT that students MUST write the research paper, which counts as the whole grade for PSc 300 or 400 but averages into their final grade

for PSc 364 as 30 percent. *The details of the research paper are described later in the syllabus.*

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Research Paper	30%

**There is not a presentation option for students taking the writing course (PSc 300 or PSc 400). The first draft is due November 30.*

The grade weights for PSc 300 or PSc 400 are:

Paper100% *(The final grade on the research paper counts as the whole grade for PSc 300 or 400. Students are allowed to re-write and re-submit the paper once)*

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356 Telephone: 243-6181

OFFICE HOURS: T,Th, 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Please note that I am available any time that I am in the office and not in class. Typically, I am in the office on most afternoons until 4 or 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

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 few weeks of class will be used for the 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. All papers are due on December 7 (Thursday). *Please note that students taking PSc 300 or PSc 400 must turn their first drafts in earlier (November 30) and the final versions of their papers are due December 14. This is described in greater detail in the next section.*

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 option 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 the presentation.*

The **first draft** of the paper is due on **Thursday, November 30**. 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 **December 14** (*this is during exam week*). 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).

If you are happy with your first grade you do not have to re-write and re-submit the paper by December 14. This grade also counts as the 10-page paper grade for PSc 364 but is averaged with the two exams.

ATTENDANCE: Students are encouraged to attend class. Poor attendance will affect one's final grade.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Graduate students must see the instructor for the graduate increment for this class. *PSc 364 is a UG class.*

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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

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>

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

SPECIAL DATES:

November 7 (Election Day)

November 11 (Veteran's Day)

November 22-24 (Thanksgiving Break)

Final Exam Week is December 11-15. *There is not a final exam in this version of PSc 364 administered during Exam Week.* However, papers will be returned during exam week for those taking the class as a non-writing option, and final writing papers (any papers that need to be resubmitted) for PSc 300 and PSc 400 are due on December 14.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction: New Directions for State and Local Governments

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1 (*The class begins on August 29*)

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.

Exam 1 – October 12 (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).

Exam 2 – November 16 (Thursday) *Exams will be returned Tuesday, November 28 due to the Thanksgiving break.*

Papers for PSc 300 and PSc 400 are due **November 30**; papers are *not* due for those who are *not* taking PSc 300 or PSc 400 on November 30. The final papers for PSc 300 and PSc 400 are due on **December 14** (*during Exam Week*). Please note that these dates **ONLY** apply to students enrolled in either PSc 300 or PSc 400.

Standard PSc 364 papers are due December 7 (*the last day of class prior to Exam Week*). Students who take the **presentation option** in lieu of the paper are required to turn in a **bibliography or list of sources** at the end of their presentation -- that is, the day they make their presentation.

Presentations begin November 30 and will continue until December 14, if necessary. *The number of days needed for presentations varies with the number of students who sign up for presentations.*

Fall 2006 / Posted June 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 Gelinias. [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 but please take note that the chapters are in a different order. We are using the *Essentials* edition in this class.

The website the *Essentials* edition is http://www.college.hmco.com/polisci/bowman_earney/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.

Montana Ballot Issues -- The Initiative and Referendum

Montana and all western states except New Mexico, allow voters to make statutory changes in law and constitutional amendments via the initiative. This is an election year in Montana and there are a lot of ballot issues. For a complete list of the issues (*most have not officially been placed on the ballot yet*) click the following link at the Secretary of State's office. We will be talking about some of these ballot issues in class.

http://sos.mt.gov/ELB/archives/2006/Ballot_Issues.asp

Governor's Races

Battle of the ballot box: With 36 governorships up for grabs, along with a host of other state-level races, local contests and plenty of controversial ballot measures, a tumultuous political year is unfolding. Election news from around the country is updated daily on *Governing.com's* politics-news page at Governing.com/politics.htm, and the site has just launched its biennial Governors Election Guide — state-by-state coverage of the governors' races, updated right through to Election Day. Governing.com/govraces/guide.htm