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PSC 526.50: Issues in State and Local Government

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PSc 526 SYLLABUS

ISSUES IN STATE GOVERNMENT (Online Class)

Online Class for the University of Montana MPA Program

Fall Semester 2003 / September 3 - December 3

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

PSc 526 is open to graduate students in any UM program and to UM seniors that have a 3.0 or higher GPA

OVERVIEW OF THE ONLINE VERSION OF PSc 526

This is the second time that **PSc 526, Issues in State Government** has been offered online. The class is part of the **Online MPA Program** and can be counted toward either the MPA degree at the University of Montana's campus program in Missoula, or the **Online MPA Program**. For more information about the MPA Program, visit the following link [MPA Program](#). This class is essentially an online version of the **Seminar in State Government**, which was offered to Helena MPA students in the past. Although the discussion cannot completely simulate a traditional seminar, online classes are becoming more popular. You do not have to attend any classes and you can complete the work at a time that is convenient for you. The entire MPA program is now available online.

Students can register for this class online at the UM website, <http://cyberbear.umt.edu>, or by calling the Registrar's Office at UM (406-243-2995). The class is open to any interested student, including students in the Missoula area. Every effort has been made to make this online class work seamlessly using a state-of-the-art computer blackboard system maintained by the University of Montana. It is recognized that an online class cannot completely replicate an interactive seminar with a group and a professor gathered in a room. This limitation should be noted at the outset.

The class consists of 13 sessions, including a final "summary" session. The material that is assigned is due on **Wednesday night** of each week of the class. The due dates are designated on the syllabus. ***You should begin your work on September 3; the work is due the following Wednesday, September 10.*** Each session will consist of a brief summary about the topic, a variety of readings and several questions (no more than three questions). Students will post their responses to the questions and may enter into a dialogue with other students about the subject matter. The intention is to generate an online dialogue among students similar to the dialogue that one would get in a traditional seminar. Students may post their comments and responses to the questions online at any time during week as long as their final comments are made by Wednesday of each week. The comments should be kept parsimonious -- that is, kept to a short, well-written paragraph. On **Thursdays**, I will read over the dialogue and make comments. ***Students should always feel welcome to contact me personally via e-mail at jeffrey@selway.umt.edu or by phone (406-243-6181) if you have any questions about the session or the course. I will check the blackboard almost everyday and may make comments as needed.***

The theme of this class, like the traditional seminar that has been taught many times at UM and in the old Helena MPA program class, is the *resurgence of the states thesis*. This thesis was made popular by Bowman and Kearney during the mid-1980s with their book, *Resurgence of the States* (Prentice Hall, 1984). Although a bit more challenging with the online version, this class will focus on the resurgence theme and incorporate a wide variety of issues about state government. There will be several topics that deal with local government included, but the primary focus is on the states.

There are a few requirements, such as article critiques, article abstracts, and a single question exam. These are explained below in the syllabus and can be sent as attachments to me by e-mail at jeffrey@selway.umt.edu as either an HTML or Word (any version) file. I do not have WordPerfect installed on any of my computers, so if you use WordPerfect, please save the file as an HTML file, then send it as an attachment. Each student will select three articles and write brief (two pages or less) critiques. Students should select articles for their three critiques from *State and Local Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities* or *State of States*. There are links to examples of each of these assignments further down in the syllabus. Please note there is a difference between a critique and an abstract. The course will also include a single question exam. The responses can be e-mailed at the end of the term and should not exceed 6 single-spaced pages. The question is: *Evaluate the evidence that suggests there has been resurgence in the states' ability to govern during the past 40 years. Do you agree or disagree? And, what are the prospects for the future regarding the role of the states (and local governments) in the federal system?* Again, these documents should be sent as attachments via e-mail (HTML or Word documents), or simply mailed as hard copies to my office.

TEXTS (These texts can be ordered from the UC Bookstore at 406-243-1234. You can e-mail the bookstore at bookstore@selway.umt.edu or visit their website at <http://www.umt.edu/bookstore>. The UC Bookstore will ship the books directly to your home or office). There are 4 books required for this class and one book that is optional.

1. ***State and Local Government***, 5th Edition, by Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney (Note that all of the chapters included in the Bowman and Kearney text are not assigned; those dealing with local or urban government). This is the main textbook that will be used.

2. ***The State of The States***, 3rd Edition (edited by Charles Van Horn)

3. ***State & Local Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities 2002-03*** (edited by Beyle)
The 2003-04 version of this book may not be ready for the class. If you end up with the newer edition, just read the same chapters, which are the same in all versions of this annually printed book. The chapters will have different articles, but the subject matter will be the same. The 2002-03 version was ordered to insure that we had the books on time.

4. ***The Third House***, 2nd Edition, by Alan Rosenthal

5. ***Who Runs for the State Legislature?*** by Moncrief, Squire, and Jewell

OPTIONAL TEXT: *Annual Editions: State and Local Government* (edited by Stinebrickner) *Note: this book is NOT required for this section of PSc 526, but you can select articles from the book for your article critiques. Thus, it is mentioned throughout the syllabus. You can use any recent edition of this book.*

*Also, you may purchase either ***The Third House*** or ***Who Runs for the State Legislature?***, depending on your interest. ***The Third House*** is about interest groups; ***Who Runs for the State Legislature?*** is about what kind of people, personalities, etc. run for state assemblies in the states. Both are excellent books.*

Governing Magazine, which is available for free online at www.governing.com

(***Governing: The Magazine of States and Localities***, contains many articles and current events that may be discussed during the class. You can view current and past editions of ***Governing*** at the link shown above).

COURSE DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

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 objective of the course is to provide a forum to discuss a wide range of issues involving state government. Students' proficiency with the material included in PSc 526 will be assessed via a written exam, oral and written article summaries, and written abstracts. The theme of the class is the Bowman and Kearney notion that there has been a "resurgence of the

states." Specific learning objectives can be viewed online.

Grades will be based on a final, comprehensive exam, and writing abstracts for the articles included in ***Annual Editions: State and Local Government*** or ***CQ's State and Local Government***. The final exam consists of one question: *Evaluate the evidence that suggests there has been resurgence in the states' ability to govern during the past 40 years. Do you agree or disagree? And, what are the prospects for the future regarding the role of the states (and local governments) in the federal system?* This seems to be a timely question given the current circumstances of the nation dealing with terrorism, which has led to a call for federalization of a variety of areas (security workers at airports and the new federal Office of Homeland Security). Your responses can be sent via e-mail or regular mail.

Article Critique (or Summary) Guidelines

The *Annual Editions* and CQ books contain a variety of articles that are typically assigned to students on the first day of a traditional class. To help facilitate the online version, students may pick any three (3) articles from any source used in the class (or from *Governing Magazine*), and write critiques. These should be e-mailed during the semester to jeffrey@selway.umt.edu. Of course, you can simply mail hard copies of the critiques if you prefer. There are some specific questions one should consider while reading the article and developing a summary (or critique). The purpose is to enhance one's ability to write short, concise reports -- no more than two pages -- about complex material. One should attempt to summarize the article in a single page if possible. .

1. What is the major subject and theme of the article?
2. What is the major question the author addresses?
3. What techniques, tools of analysis, or methods are employed by the author to answer the question?
4. What major points does the author make?
5. What does the author conclude? What suggestions are made?
6. What is the relevance of the article to theory or practice?

Grade Weights

Exam50 percent (The *Resurgence of the States* question)
Participation30 percent (Based on the online responses)
Article Critiques.....20 percent (Based on the three article critiques or summaries)

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COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Session 1 Introduction: New Directions for the States and the Quiet Revolution Images of the States, Political Culture , and Current Issues in the New Century

Due September 10

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Van Horn: Chapter 1, "The Quiet Revolution"

CQ: Chapter 1, Politics at the Turn of the Century

"Recommendations for Reform," by Rooney and Storey

"The Immortal Chad" by Sostek

"From the Ballot Box to the Mailbox," by Storey

Session 2 Federalism (and State Constitutions)

Due September 17

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 2 and 3

Van Horn: Chapter 2, "The Role of the States in American Federalism", by R. Nathan.

Session 3 Political Participation in the States

Due September 24

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 4

CQ: Chapter 2, Politics: Direct Democracy

"Lawmakers or the People: Who Is Better Informed," by Waters

"Regulations Ace Out the Little Guy," by Waters

"Initiatives and the Technology Age," by Waters

This is an interesting link about local government. Everyone should read this article from the *Tucson Citizen*. The same question could be posed, "Who Runs Missoula?" Or, "Who runs Billings?"

"Who Runs Tucson?" This is a special story from the *Tucson Citizen* (the local newspaper) that is available online. Everyone should read this article.

http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/local/archive/01/who_runs_tucson/index.html

Session 4 Political Parties and Interest Groups

Due October 1

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 5

CQ: Chapter 3, Politics: Parties, Interest Groups, and PACs

"The Politics of Party," by Greenblatt

"Caucusgate in the Badger State," by Greenblatt

"A Political Pattern or Happenstance?" by Beyle

Van Horn: Chapter 4, "The Transformation of State Electoral Politics", by Salmore and Salmore

CQ: Chapter 4, Media and the States

"Campaigns Are Different, Media Are Plural," by Guillory

"Eagle Eye," by Jonas

"The Trend Toward Political Air Wars," by Beyle

The Third House: Lobbying and Lobbyists in the States

Session 5 State Legislatures

Due October 8

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

Van Horn: Chapter 5, "The Legislature: Unraveling of Institutional Fabric", by Alan Rosenthal.

CQ: Chapter 5, State Legislatures

"Rightsizing the Legislature," by Ehrenhalt

"Crash Course," by Greenblatt

"Fit to be Tied," by Greenblatt

"A Disturbing Paradox," by Rosenthal

"What is the Message?" by Rosenthal

The Third House: Lobbying and Lobbyists in the States

Who Runs for the State Legislature

Session 6 Governors

Due October 15

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7

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

CQ: Chapter 6: Governors and the Executive Branch

"Electoral Overload," by Ehrenhalt

"Lt. Governors More Than Spare Tires, Study Shows" by Murphy

"Accidental Governors," by Beyle

Session 7 The Bureaucracy

Due October 22

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8

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

CQ: Chapter 7, State and Local Bureaucracies and Administration

"Trends in Higher Education," by Coble
"The Problem with Promises," Ehrenhalt
"Plan Needed to Fight Terrorism," by Guiden
"Technology Helps States Boost Efficiency," by McDonald

Session 8 The Judiciary (and Criminal Justice Policy)

Due October 29

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 9, 16

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

CQ: Chapter 8, State Courts

"Choosing a Judiciary," by Bales
"Docket Science," by Greenblatt
"Courting Our State's Politics," by Beyle
"Campaigning for Judge: Nosier, Nastier?," by Herrnson and Abbe

CQ: Chapter 10, State and Local Policy Issues

"When Prison Doors Open," by Mountjoy

Session 9 State-Local Relations, Finance, and Taxation

Due November 5

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13

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

[Click here](#) for the link to the article "Punishing Efficiency" by Robert D. Behn on *Governing.com*. The article appeared on *Governing.com* on September 3, 2001. This article raises some interesting issues about budgeting in the states.

Session 10 Public Policy and State Issues: Education & Welfare Policy

Due November 12

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 15 and 17

Van Horn: Chapters 9 and 10, "State Education Policy in the 1990s" by Goertz and "State Welfare Policy," by Lurie

CQ: State and Local Policy Issues

"Medicaid Woes Returning," by Tomsic
"The Campus Crowd," by Greenblatt
"Losing Numbers," by Perlman
"The Teenage Highway Slowdown," by Ehrenhalt

Session 11 Public Policy Issues (including Economic Development and Environmental Policy)

Due November 19

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 14 and 18

Van Horn: Chapter 10, "Power to the States." *This is the closing comments for the class. Have the states experienced a resurgence in their ability to govern?*

Session 12 Open: Exam Assigned (November 26)**Session 13 Exams and Article Critiques Due (December 3)**

*(Note that there is an additional week for students to complete their exam and article critiques. This is why Session 12 is "open." All materials are due by **December 3**).*

Due December 3 --- All materials due

Exams and Article Critiques will be returned by December 10. If you send your materials by regular mail, please include a self-addressed envelope that will hold the materials. If you send your materials by e-mail, they will be graded and returned by e-mail.

Class Materials and Transparencies

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)

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.

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.

Other Online MPA Classes

PSc 501, Public Administration, will be offered during the Spring 2003 semester online. This course is the "perspectives" class that examines the field and discipline of public administration. **PSc 505, Public Budgeting** will be offered during the summer 2004 session. Other MPA online classes will also be offered in the spring. I am the instructor for **PSc 501, PSc 503, PSc 505, and PSc 526**. [Click here](#) for the complete schedule of MPA courses offered on campus and online.

[Return to Professor Greene's Home Page](#)

*Fall 2003 Online Class
Issues in State Government
Professor: Jeffrey Greene
New E-mail: jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu*

(Note: UM has changed its e-mail addresses. The jeffrey@selway.umt.edu address will still work for this class, but the new address is jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu Both e-mail addresses work during the fall semester.

This version of the syllabus was posted in May, 2003