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PSC 364.01: State and Local Government

Jeffrey D. Greene

University of Montana, jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

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State & Local Government Syllabus

PSc 364 / Fall 2002

Tuesday/Thursdays 12:20 p.m. - 2 p.m. / Location: LA 337

TEXTS

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

Supplement: *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 at one the website at <<http://www.umd.edu/polsci>>

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

Midterm Exam35%
Final Exam35%
Paper/or Presentation ..30%

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 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 required paper for PSc 300 or 400 is longer than the standard paper. The details of the research paper are described later in the syllabus. *There is not a "presentation" option for students taking the writing course.*

The grade weights for PSc 300 or PSc 400 are:

Paper100%

PROFESSOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356 **Telephone:** 243-6181 **E-mail:** jeffrey@selway.umt.edu

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

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 5 to 6 page research paper (excluding the cover page and bibliography), 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.* The instructor must approve all topics. The presentation usually takes 10 minutes and leaving 5 minutes for the class to ask questions. 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.

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 instructor must approve the topic 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 14**. 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*). 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.

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: 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

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 – October 15 (Tuesday)

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.

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 9,10, "State Education Policy," by M. Goertz; "State Welfare Policy," by I. Lurie.

Final Exam – November 26 (Tuesday) *Presentations will begin on November 28*

There are many additional resources on the webpage, including study guides, transparencies, learning objectives, and the special links to Houghton Mifflin. The URL is
<<http://www.umt.edu/polsci/greene%20home%20page.htm>>