PSC 364.01: State Government

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PSc 364 STATE GOVERNMENT

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:40 – 2:00 p.m. LA 337


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 objective of the course is to acquaint students with the complexities of state government.

GRADE WEIGHTS:
Midterm Exam ........... 40%
Final Exam ............. 40%
Presentation ........... 20%

PROFESSOR: Dr. Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356 Telephone: 243-6181

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

REQUIREMENTS: Two exams. Students are expected to take the exams during the scheduled time. The exams for the summer session will be subjective (terms and essays).
Presentations. Students will select a topic of interest and make an oral, 10-minute presentation during the final weeks of class. As an option, students may select to write a 10 page paper in lieu of the presentation.

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

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

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.

Governors
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 6
Van Horn: Chapter 5, "Being Governor", by Thad Beyle.

State Legislatures
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8
Van Horn: Chapter 6, "The Legislature" by Alan Rosenthal.

The Judiciary
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

The Bureaucracy
Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7
Van Horn, Chapter 8, "Accountability Battles in State Administration", by William Gormley.

Midterm Exam – Thursday, October 15

State-Local Relations
Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13

Public Policy in the States
Education, Economic Development, Criminal Justice, The Environment
Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 14,15,16,17,18

Federal-State Relations in the 1990s
Van Horn: Chapter 11, "Power to the States", by Van Horn

Final Exam – Thursday, December 3

Presentations Begin Tuesday, December 8

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