

POLS 3240
Fall 2013
East Carolina University

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM;
Thursday 2:00 PM until 5:30 PM

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Course Overview

This is an introductory course on the politics and policies of sub-national governments in the United States. Since about 1970 state governments have become increasingly powerful. Today, state governments are the primary policy innovators and delivery systems for a variety of services, from economic development to environmental protection. Local governments are products of the states and have also become much more active in addressing problems of governance. As state and local governments have taken on more programmatic responsibilities, they have also taken over much of the fiscal responsibility for their innovations. This course provides an overview of the literature in state politics and policy in the United States. Topics covered will include federalism, citizen participation, state legislatures, governors, budgeting, and state-local relations through public policy discussions on welfare, poverty, economic development, the environment, and healthcare.

The course will move from general to the specific by applying lessons in institutional state and local governance to issues in specific states and localities (especially North Carolina, Pitt County, and Greenville). Specifically, upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Describe core concepts related to the activities of state and local governments;
- Identify theories of politics as applied to the states;
- Examine differences in state responses to public policy issues;
- Analyze a public policy issue from the perspective of state and local governments.

Course Format

This course is delivered both in the classroom and through virtual environments. Assigned materials including lectures, readings, assignments, and other files are available on the course Blackboard site. State and local responses to major public policy issues will be questioned in the following ways.

1. **Descriptive.** What are states doing? Is there variability across states? How are states similar, different or the same? Have states changed or are they changing?
2. **Explanatory.** How are states doing something? What explains differences across states and over time? By using the model or variables, does the author explain what he sets out to explain? Is this a particularly useful line of inquiry?
3. **Methods.** Are the methods presented in assigned materials sound and appropriate? That is, did the author(s) use a reasonable, reliable strategy to examine the problem (why/why not)? Does this approach work in light of the theoretical questions being raised or are there other ways of studying this phenomenon?
4. **Evaluative.** Does the policy address the problem? Is it an efficient way to address the problem? What about issues of accountability and equity? How do states compare to each other and in relation to the national and local governments?

Required Texts

Bowman, Ann O'M. and Richard C. Kearney. 2011. *State and Local Government Ninth Edition*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Additional readings will be assigned from a variety of sources. You may access each document electronically through course webpage on Blackboard. Should you have a problem with a specific reading, let me know about the nature of the problem as soon as possible.

Appointments

My office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you wish to see me please send me an email to set up an appointment so that I set aside the time for your questions or concerns. While you may try to drop by to see if I am free it is often the case that someone else has requested time to meet with me. I **strongly** encourage you to set up appointments rather than dropping by. On days and times other than my posted office hours I will be online most often during the business day (Monday through Friday – 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM). My availability at night or on weekends is very limited. I reserve Mondays and Fridays for research. It is rare that I will schedule in-person appointments on these days, though I will attempt to respond to your emails within 24 hours on week days.

Students with Disabilities

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans' with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a qualifying disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 (252)-737-1016 (Voice/TTY) before any accommodation may occur.

Academic Integrity

The East Carolina Creed reflects the University's expectation that students exhibit personal and academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, falsification, multiple submissions, and attempting or assisting with an academic integrity violation is a violation of the Academic Integrity policy and the expectations set forth in the Creed. Students are expected to know and adhere to the Academic Integrity policy. Penalties for violating the Academic Integrity policy can include a grade penalty up to and including an F for the course.

Academic Retention Standards

GPA Hours at ECU (identified in transcript in Banner Self Service) PLUS transferred credit hours	"Old" GPA Retention Requirement for All Courses Taken At ECU	"New" GPA Retention Requirements Effective Fall 2011 for all courses taken at ECU
1-29 semester hours	1.6	1.8
30-59 semester hours	1.8	1.9
60-74 semester hours	1.9	2.0
75 or more semester hours	2.0	2.0

Emergency Weather and continuity of instruction plan

In the event of a weather emergency, or other emergency necessitating the cancellation of class, information can be accessed through the following sources: ECU emergency notices (www.ecu.edu/alert) or the ECU emergency information hotline at 252-328-0062. I will post a cancellation notice on the course Blackboard page as well.

Course Policies

Attendance: Students are required to attend class. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Most often this will occur via a short quiz.

Decorum: Please be on time for class. If you are late enter quietly and get settled as quickly as possible. Please remain in your seat until I end the session. Packing up early is disruptive to me and your classmates – don't do it. If you must leave class early please let me know beforehand.

Discussions should be civil exchanges between colleagues. You don't have to agree about everything but you must find a way to make your point respectfully.

Turn off your phone prior to class. If it rings you will be asked to turn it off, hand it to me, and retrieve it at the end of the session. If you wish to take notes on a portable device use it for notes only. Do NOT engage in social media during my class. I will ask you leave. Do not surf the web, IM, email, or research the topic I am lecturing on during the class. I will ask you to leave. These sorts of behaviors indicate you are not paying attention and are disrespectful to me as well as your peers.

Assignments

Summary

Assignment	Weight	Due Date(s)
Participation	15%	Ongoing
Exams	40% (13.3% each)	10/1; 10/31/; 12/12
State Representative Paper	15%	9/24
Policy Paper	30%	11/21

Reading assignments: Complete all reading assignments. Come to class prepared with questions for the me as well as fellow students; class sessions will not summarize the readings but will provide you with more information about the topic of the day and will encourage you to apply what you are learning. I will not summarize readings for you in class and you should be expected to be tested on your knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings.

Citation: You should follow the APSA citation format for all written assignments. If you are confused about citation formatting consult the American Political Science Association style guide (<http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/Publications/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>). If you do not know how to cite a particular source you may choose to solicit help from the Joyner Library Reference desk. Assignments with **improper** citation will have 10 points deducted from the earned grade. Assignments **without** citation will have 50 points deducted from the earned grade.

A general note: you may use Wikipedia as a starting point, but citing Wikipedia as a source of information or reference is not sufficient. Use the Wikipedia citations to gather the actual source of information you are providing and go to that original source. And, a general caution: Wikipedia may not be accurate – make sure to check source material carefully!

Late Assignments: Seven (7) points will be deducted for any portion of each 24-hour period an assignment is late. Assignments are due at 12:30 PM on the date listed on this syllabus for each. If

you must miss class when an assignment is due email the assignment to the instructor *prior* to the class the assignment is due– otherwise, the assignment will be considered late. Excuses are not required.

Participation. By attending class and taking the quiz you will get 50 of the points available for that session. Learning from one another is an important component of this class. Therefore, you are expected to participate in class. The other 50 points will come from questions about the readings and topic for the day or as a part of an in-class activity.

Exams. (**Non-cumulative**). Each exam covers approximately 33 percent of the course content. Format varies.

Submitting Papers: All papers must be submitted through “Safe Assign” in Blackboard. You must run the paper through Safe Assign, print out the report you get, and staple it as the cover page of your paper. I will only accept **paper** copies of research papers with the Safe Assign report attached. No emailed papers will be accepted.

Course Grades

A = 94 to 100	B+= 87 to 89	C+ = 77 to 79	D+ = 67 to 69	F =Less than 60
A-= 90 to 93	B = 83 to 86	C = 73 to 76	D = 63 to 66	
	B-= 80 to 82	C-= 70 to 72	D-= 70 to 72	

Caveat

This syllabus is an agreement between us regarding expectations and assignments for the course. Occasionally, however, it may be necessary to change this syllabus to meet students’ needs. I reserve the right to revise this syllabus. Advance notification will be provided to you.

Course Schedule

Topic	Date	Reading(s)	Assignments and Notes
Introduction	August 20	Text Chapters 1	
Polling, Data, & Public Opinion	August 22	Washington Post The Week Staff Dickinson, 2012 Moral Mondays Marijuana Polls	Bring printed examples of two polls on an issue relative to state and local government to class
Research Basics	August 27	Political Science Writing Guide (UNC) APSA Style Guide	Joyner Librarian Ms. Angela Whitehurst
Culture	August 29	Hero & Tolbert, 1996 Morgan & Watson, 1991	Dr. William Ferris
Federalism	September 5 September 10	Text Chapter 2 Conlan and Posner, 2011 Frey, 2011	
Political Parties and Elections	September 12	Text Chapters 4 & 5 Hogan, 2003 Niemi, Stanley, & Vogel, 1995 Schecter & Hedge, 2001	Mr. Brent Laurenz
Interest Groups	September 17	Text Chapter 5 Birkland Chapter 5	Mr. John Holdsclaw
State Constitutions	September 19	Munro, 1935 Text Chapter 3 Smith and Greenblatt, 2014	
Administration and ethics	September 24	Text Chapters 8 Gottesdiener, 2013 Wechsler, 2012 Houston, 2012 Javers and Barbash, 2008	State representative paper due
State-local relations	September 26	Text Chapter 12	
EXAM ONE	October 1		
Legislature	October 3 October 10	Text Chapter 6 Bratton, 2003 Arceneaux, 2001 Pieklo, 2013	10.10 Representatives Brian Brown, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, and Susan Martin
Governors	October 15	Text Chapter 7 Beyle	Outline for policy paper due
Courts, Police, and Corrections	October 17	Text Chapters 9, 16 NC Bar Association, 2012 Paynter & Kearney, 2011 Kourlis, 2011	Chief Travis Cowan

Local government and Metropolitcs	October 22 October 24	Text Chapters 10, 11 Smith, Greenblatt, and Vaughan Chapter 12	
Staffing and Financing	October 29	RAND Roundtable Text Chapter 13 Hoene and Pagano, 2011 Reilly and Reed, 2011	TABOR case study
EXAM TWO	October 31		
Policy Overview	November 5	Birkland Chapter 1 Buntin, 2012	
Social policy	November 7	Text Chapter 17 Soss et al, 2001 Paynter, Jolley, & Camilleiri, 2013	Guest speaker TBD
Health policy	November 12	Text Chapter 17 Cantor, 2006	Guest speaker TBD
Economic development	November 14 November 19	Text Chapter 14 Additional readings TBD	11/19 Dr. Carol Kline
Education	November 21	Text Chapter 15 Gramlich, 2011	Policy paper due
Review	November 26		
Environment	December 3	Text Chapter 18	Mr. Hawley Truax & Ms. Katherine Walters
EXAM THREE	December 12		