

STATE POLITICS AND POLICY
POSC 302/402
Spring 2011

Professor: Andrew Lucker
Location: Clark Hall 104
Class Schedule: T & TH 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.
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More often than not state governments make more decisions that affect the life of an average citizen than does the federal government. In addition many professions within a state are regulated by the state government from attorneys to funeral home operators. State legislatures are also responsible for determining the proper representation of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels. On top of the federally mandated programs that state governments oversee state governments regulate spending over a wide variety of items from road construction to public universities. These are just a few of the many components of state government that will be examined in this course.

The role of state government's has debatably grown in importance in recent years since the federal government began turning over more of the administrative responsibilities for many federal programs to state governmental institutions. This phenomenon defined as "devolution" by political scientists will be debated in this course along with many other facets of state and federal government policy making. The division of powers between the federal government and the various fifty state governments know as "federalism" will also be discussed.

In addition to the constitutional setup of state government we will examine governmental options that are unique to the U.S. states. One such example that will be discussed is the initiative, referendum, and reform which have been increasingly used by business interests, interest groups and the electorate in general in certain states to transform the very nature of state government.

Required Texts for Students

Four books will be required for this course:

Conlan, Timothy J. *From New Federalism to Devolution: Twenty Five Years of Intergovernmental Reform*, Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 1998. ISBN 0815715315

Gray, Virginia and Hanson, Russell. *Politics in the American States: Comparative Analysis*, Ninth Edition, Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-87289-342-9

O'Toole, Lawrence J., ed., *American Intergovernmental Relations: Foundations Perspectives, and Issues*, Fourth Edition, Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2007. ISBN 0-87289-307-3

Schrag, Peter. *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004. ISBN 0-520-24387-0

Some additional reading will be assigned by the professor for graduate students.

Research Paper #1

Each student will do a detailed state level budgetary analysis of their assigned state covering challenges facing their state in the next one or two year budget cycle. Students should use online budgetary and media resources from their assigned states to report on the budgetary activities in their individual states. One good source of state budgetary information is the Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government. (<http://www.rockinst.org/>) Please explain in as much detail as you can some of the budgetary choices and decisions that are being considered by the state government you are covering. Students will present the results of their findings to the class at the appropriate time. Each state level budgetary analysis should be at least 15 pages in length. Wikipedia will not be accepted as a primary or a secondary source of any information contained in the assigned research paper.

Research Paper #2

Each student will be assigned a U.S. state to examine and will meet individually with the professor to determine the state they will research, confer on subject matter, and discuss possible research sources. Students will be expected to explain the state constitutional governmental structure in their assigned states. This should be followed by an analysis of the electoral changes in the state from 2000 to the present, an explanation of the partisan changes in the state from 2000 to the present, and an explanation of how and why these changes occurred. Students are also expected to address public policy issues that their assigned states have had to address in the last ten years. Each research paper is expected to be between twenty and twenty five pages in length. For graduate students the research paper should be between thirty five and forty pages in length. Wikipedia will not be accepted as a primary or a secondary source of any information contained in the assigned research paper.

Class Participation and Attendance

Each student will be expected to participate in class discussions on all topics being debated. Attendance is also expected at all classes unless excused by the professor. Class participation and attendance will determine ten percent of your grade.

Grading

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Research Paper #1	20%
Research Paper #2	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Attendance & Class Participation	10%

Schedule of Classes and Required Reading for State Politics and Policy

Jan. 11: Review Syllabus/Introduction to Course

Jan 13: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 1: The Socioeconomic and Political Context of States & Chapter 2: Intergovernmental Relations

Jan. 18: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 3: Parties and Elections & Chapter 4: Interest Groups in the States

Jan. 20: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 5: The Initiative Process & Chapter 6: Legislative Politics in the States

Jan. 25: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 7: The Governors & Chapter 8: State Courts: Politics and the Judicial Process

Jan. 27: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 9: State Corrections Policy & Chapter 10: Fiscal Policy in the American States

Feb. 1: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 11: State Health and Welfare Programs & Chapters 12: The Politics of Education

Feb. 3: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 13: Economic and Social Regulation & Chapter 14: Economic Development and Infrastructure Policy

Feb 8: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*: Part 1 Introduction & Part 2 Altered State & Golden Moment

Feb. 10: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's* Part 2 Good-Bye El Dorado

Feb. 15: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience*

Feb 17: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future: Part 3*
Mississippification & Part 3 The Spirit of 13

Feb 22: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future: Part 3* March of the
Plebiscites & Part 4 The Next America, Preface to the 2004 Paperback edition

Feb 24: *American Intergovernmental Relations: American Intergovernmental Relations:*
An Overview, Part I: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives, Federalist No. 39,
What the Framers Meant by Federalism, the Federal System

*****March 1: Midterm*****

Mar. 3: *American Intergovernmental Relations: The Condition of American Federalism:*
An Historian's View, Models, of National, State, and Local Relationships, The
Paradox of the Middle Tier, Puppy Federalism and the Blessings of America

Mar. 8: Spring Break

Mar 10: Spring Break

Mar. 15: *American Intergovernmental Relations: Part II: Political Aspects of*
Intergovernmental Relations, Governmental Diversity: Bane of the Grants
Strategy in the U.S., Governments as Interest Groups, Trends and Issues in
Interstate Cooperation, The New Federalism, State Autonomy in Germany and
the U.S., Ways of Achieving Federal Objectives

Mar 17: *****Research Paper #1 Due*****, Student Presentations of their Individual State
Election Papers

Mar. 22: *American Intergovernmental Relations: Part III: The Fiscal Aspects of*
Intergovernmental Relations, Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government, the
Economics of Intergovernmental Grants, Federal Grants-in-Aid to State
Governments: A Political Analysis, Entrepreneurial Cities, U.S. Federalism, and
Economic Development, Why Categorical Grants?, Financing Local Government
in a Changing World, Tense Commandments: Federal Prescriptions and City
Problems

Mar. 24: *American Intergovernmental Relations: Part IV Administrative Aspects*
Intergovernmental Relations, The Techniques of Intergovernmental Regulation,
The Role of Federal Mandates in Intergovernmental Relations: Draft Report, The
Politics of Unfunded Mandates, Another Look at Bargaining and Negotiating in
Intergovernmental Management

- Mar. 29: *American Intergovernmental Relations: Part V: Emerging Intergovernmental Issues and Challenges, The Katrina Breakdown, Homeland Security: The Federalism Challenge, American Public Administration and Impacts of International Governance, Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism: It's Past Present and Future, and Does Anyone Care?*, American Intergovernmental Relations: Concluding Thoughts
- Mar. 31: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 1: Federalism Reform and the Modern State & Chapter 2: The Origins of Nixon's New Federalism
- Apr. 5: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 3: The Fragmented Politics of Block Grants & Chapter 4: The Unique Politics of General Revenue Sharing
- Apr. 7: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 5: The National Dimension of Nixon's New Federalism & Chapter 6: The Context of Reagan's Federalism
- Apr 12: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 7: The Implicit Federalism of Reagan's Federalism & Chapter 8: Federal Aid Budgets and Block Grants in the 1980's
- Apr 14: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 9: Comprehensive Federalism Reform: Under Reagan & Chapter 10: Regulatory Federalism under Reagan
- Apr 19: *****Research Paper #2 Due*****, *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 11: Reform Interregnum: The Bush and Early Clinton Years & Chapter 12: A Devolution Revolution? Federalism in the 104th Congress
- Apr 21: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 13: Evolutionary Devolution: The Saga of Mandates and Welfare Reform & 14: Intergovernmental Reform and the Future of Federalism
- ***Final Exam April 29th, 2011 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.*****