

**STATE POLITICS AND POLICY**  
**POSC 302/402**  
**Spring 2006**

Professor: Andrew Lucker  
Location: Sears 541  
Class Schedule: T & TH 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.  
Office: 312 Mather House  
Office Hours: T & TH 2:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment  
E-Mail: [andrew.lucker@case.edu](mailto:andrew.lucker@case.edu)  
Office Phone: 216-368-1015  
Home Phone: 440-255-1795

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 as the federal government has turned over more of the administrative responsibilities of 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.

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. **\*Copies of selected chapters from the fifth book, *Ohio Politics*, will be provided by the instructor.**

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*. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2003. ISBN 1-56802-773-7

Jewell, Malcolm and McCally, Sarah Morehouse. *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002. ISBN 0-7425-1100-6

\*Lamis, Alexander and Sharkey, Mary Ann (eds.). *Ohio Politics*, Kent State University Press, 1997. ISBN 0873386132

Schrag, Peter. *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*. New York: The New Press, 1998. ISBN 0520243870

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

### **Research Paper**

Students are expected to complete one research paper during the course of the semester. 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 1996 to the present, an explanation of the partisan changes in the state from 1996 to the present, and an explanation of how and why these changes occurred. 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.

### **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:

<b>Research Paper</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Attendance &amp; Class Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>

### **Schedule of Classes and Required Reading for State Politics and Policy**

Jan. 17: Review Syllabus/Introduction to Course

Jan. 19: *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*-Preface, Chapter 1: State Politics Today, Pages. 1-26 & Chapter 2: Electoral Foundations of State Political Systems, Pages 27-52

- Jan. 24: *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*-Chapter 3: Interest Groups Political Power, Pages 53-104 & Chapter 4: The Party Outside of Government: The Electoral Party, Pages 105-146
- Jan. 26: *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*-Chapter 5: The Governor as Party Leader and Policy Maker, Pages 147-192 & Chapter 6: State Legislators, Pages 193-238
- Jan 31: *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*-Chapter 7: The Courts, Pages 239-266 & Chapter 8: The Budgetary Process: Spending and Taking, Pages 267-296
- Feb. 2: *State Politics, Parties, and Policy*-Preface, Chapter 9: The Politics of Redistribution, Pages 297-336 Chapter 10: Education Policy in the States, Pages 337-370 & the four page conclusion, Pages 371-374
- Feb. 7: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 1: The Socioeconomic and Political Context of States & Chapter 2: Intergovernmental Relations
- Feb. 9: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 3: Parties and Elections & Chapter 4: Interest Groups in the States
- Feb. 14: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 5: The Initiative Process & Chapter 6: Legislative Politics in the States
- Feb. 21: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 7: The Governors & Chapter 8: Courts: Politics and the Judicial Process
- Feb. 23: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 9: Administering State Programs: Performance and Politics & Chapter 10: The Politics of Taxing and Spending
- Feb. 28: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 11: Transforming State Health and Welfare Programs & Chapters 12: The Politics of Education
- Mar. 2: *Politics in the American States*-Chapter 13: Economic and Social Regulation & Chapter 14: Economic Development and Infrastructure Policy
- \*\*\*Mar. 7: Midterm\*\*\***
- Mar. 9: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 1: Federalism Reform and the Modern State & Chapter 2: The Origins of Nixon's New Federalism
- Mar.11: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 3: The Fragmented Politics of Block Grants & Chapter 4: The Unique Politics of General Revenue Sharing
- Mar. 14: Spring Break

Mar. 16: Spring Break

Mar. 23: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 5: The National Dimension of Nixon's New Federalism & Chapter 6: The Context of Reagan's Federalism

Mar. 28: *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

Mar. 30: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 9: Comprehensive Federalism Reform: Under Reagan & Chapter 10: Regulatory Federalism under Reagan

Apr. 4: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 11: Reform Interregnum: The Bush and Early Clinton Years & Chapter 12: A Devolution Revolution? Federalism in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress

Apr. 6: *From New Federalism to Devolution*-Chapter 13: Evolutionary Devolution: The Saga of Mandates and Welfare Reform & 14: Intergovernmental Reform and the Future of Federalism

Apr. 11: *Ohio Politics*: Elections & Political Parties

Apr. 13: *Ohio Politics*: Executive and Judiciary Chapters

Apr. 18: *Ohio Politics*: Interest Groups and News Media  
*Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*: Part 1 Introduction & Part 2 Altered State

Apr. 20: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future* Part 2 Golden Moment & Part 2 Good-Bye El Dorado  
**\*\*\*Individual State Writing Project Due\*\*\***

Apr. 25: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*: Part 3 Mississippification & Part 3 The Spirit of 13, Discussion of Students Individual State Papers

Apr. 27: *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future*: Part 3 March of the Plebiscites & Part 4 The Next America, Discussion of Students Individual State Papers

**\*\*\*Final Exam May 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3:30 p.m.\*\*\***