

PSC 212 (Section 3B)
American State and Local Government
UW 228 Monday and Wednesday 5:30 - 6:45 PM
Spring 2003

Instructor: Akhlaque Haque, Ph.D.
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Introduction

This course is designed for undergraduate majors or minors in political science. Students from other majors can also take the course as an elective. This course builds around a series of class sessions designed to show how basic institutions of the state and local governments in the United States operate including ways they interact and influence policy makers decision making.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of the course is to give students a systematic understanding of the state and local government politics. Upon successful completion of the course students should have considerable knowledge about the comparative state government and politics in the states, the devolution of state and local governments, the impact of federal mandates on states, and economic factors that affect state and local government policies. Assessment is based on students performance on two exams and one discussion paper.

Textbook:

Saffell, David C. and Harry Basehart (2001). *State and Local Government: Politics and Public Policies*, 7th edition. (Hereafter referred "SG" in the syllabus)

Supplemental Reading: Henry J. Raimondo, *Economics of State and Local Government*, New York: Praeger Publishers (hereafter referred "HR" in the syllabus)

Grade Weigts:

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|----|---------------------|-----|
| 1. | Midterm Exam | 35% |
| 2. | Final Exam | 35% |
| 3. | Paper | 25% |
| 4. | Class participation | 5% |

Paper Requirements:

The purpose of the case paper is to create an opportunity to apply the ideas and concepts discussed in class and the readings in the analysis of state and local government politics. The paper should run from 10-15 pages long (double-spaced, APA style) and draw upon topics discussed in class. A list of topics will be given in class.

Midterm and Final Exam

Materials covered from Session 1 through the beginning of the Midterm exam will be tested. The final exam will be a comprehensive exam covering all major topics covered in the course. However more questions will be based on the latter part of the course. There will be multiple choice and short essay questions in both the exams. Bring your own exam book.

Class participation:

Class participation is essential for successful completion of the course. Assigned readings must be completed prior to coming to the class. Discussions will be based on assigned readings. Anyone may be asked to lead a panel discussion.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be assessed on an A-B-C-D-F scale. Pluses and minuses will be shown on graded assignments for advisory purposes only. Late assignments will not be accepted except under emergency circumstances.

A = 90 and above

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 59 - 69

F = below 59

NOTE: Incomplete is not allowed. There are no make-up tests. Students who need special assistance should inform the instructor of their needs at the beginning of the course. Plagiarism will automatically lead to F grade in the class. Examples of plagiarism include improper citation of referenced works, use of commercially available scholarly papers, failure to cite sources, and copying others' ideas.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 6 & 8): Course Overview and Intro to State and Local Government.
Readings: Chapter 1 (SG).

Week 2 (Jan 13 & 15): Intro to State and Local Govt continued. Readings Chapter 1 (SG).

Week 3 (Jan 22): **January 20 is Holiday (Martin Luther King Day).** January 22:
Intergovernmental Relations. Readings Chapter 2 (SG).

Week 4 (January 27 and Jan. 29): Intergovernmental Relations contd. Discussion on last two chapters will on January 29. Supplemental Readings: Chapter 1 & 3 (HR).

Week 5 (Feb 3 & Feb. 5): Political parties and Interest Groups. Readings, Chapter 3 (SG)

Week 6 (Feb 10 & Feb 12): Political Participation and Elections. Readings, Chapter 4 (SG).

Week 7 (Feb 24 & Feb 26). **Midterm Exam on Monday February 24.** Feb. 26: State and Local Government Legislatures. Readings, Chapter 5 (SG).

Week 8 (March 3 & 5). State and Local Government Legislatures contd. Readings, Chapter 5 (SG).

Week 9 (March 10 & 12). Governors, Bureaucrats and Mayors. Readings: Chapter 6 (SG). March 12: Discussion on last two chapters.

Week 10 (March 17 & 19). Courts, Police and Corrections. Chapter 7 (SG).

Week 11 (24 & 26). Courts, Police and Corrections contd. Chapter 7 (SG). Discussion on financing, State and Local Government starts March 26.

Spring Break March 31 - April 4 (**Read Chapter 5 from "HR" during the Spring break**)

Week 12 (April 7 & 9). Financing state and local government contd. Readings, Chapter 8 (SG).

Week 13 (April 14 & 16). State policy making. Readings, Chapter 9 (SG).

Week 14 (April 21 & 23). Suburbs, Metropolitan areas and rural communities. Readings., Chapter 10.

Week 15 (April 28 & 30). Final Review week. **Paper due April 30 by 6:00 pm.**

Final exam MAY 5 from 4:15 PM - 6:45 PM