

POS 2112 American State and Local Government spring 2014

Instructor: Matthew M. Caverly, Ph.D. (Adjunct Lecturer)

Office & Hours: Grinter Hall, Room 313 M 3rd and 4th periods (9:35 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and W 3rd period (9:35 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.)

Lecture Class: M & W 2nd period (8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.) Little Hall, Room 101

Discussion Sections: (0416) F 4th period (10:40 to 11:30 a.m.) McCarty Hall B, Room 3124; (044D) R 5th period (11:45 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.) Keene-Flint Hall, Room 113; (06E1) F 2nd period (8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.) Keene-Flint Hall, Room 113; (14C1) F 6th period (12:50 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.) Benton Hall, Room 328; (14C3) ^{10:40} ~~R~~ 5th period (11:45 a.m. to ^{11:30} 12:35 p.m.) ^{Hollc} ~~Psychology~~ ¹²⁹ ~~Norman~~ Building, Room 129; (14C4) R 3rd period (9:35 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.) Keene-Flint Hall, Room 115

Teaching Assistants and Section Assignments:

Alec Chung	R/3	14C4
	R/5	044D
Mitch Sellers	F/2	06E1
	F/4	0416
Amanda Edmiston	F/3 R/4	14C0
	F/6	14C1

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Final Exam Group 30E: Wednesday April 30, 2014 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Course Description

State and local governments affect the daily lives of all persons living in the United States. While they have always been important in the formulation and implementation of public policies in the US, the role of state and local government has increased considerably during the past 20 years. Some observers have called this trend a “resurgence in the states,” as state and local governments have become entrepreneurial actors in realms as diverse as health care, education, corrections, economic development and land use planning, environmental protection, and welfare. As sub-national governments have taken on more programmatic responsibilities, they have also taken over much of the fiscal responsibility for their innovations.

This course examines the politics, institutions, and policy processes of state and local governments. We will strive to assess how (or if) variation in state political institutions shapes the politics and policies in different states. across states and localities, we will be able to provide coherence that would not be possible in an effort to understand all state and local governments.

Required Text (2 copies will be placed on reserve at Library West)

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, *State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform*, 4th ed. (Boston: Cengage, 2013). (It should be bundled with the Florida Politics module.)¹

It's a leading textbook in the country, so you should be able to find some used copies on-line. Be sure to get either the 3rd or 4th editions. You can purchase the textbook at the school bookstore or buy it directly from the publisher, online (as a hard copy or e-book). Alternatively, you can even rent the book or purchase individual eChapters (\$7.99 each) from the publisher, Cengage.

Additional Sources of information that could be helpful in the course

The following websites deal with newspaper accounts relative to Florida's state and local politics: <http://www.flapolitics.com/> <http://www.sayfiereview.com/>
<http://flapolitics.blogspot.com/> <http://saintpetersblog.com/>

Also, the Political Science Department Associate Chair, Professor Daniel A. Smith, Ph.D. maintains a blog devoted to voting, electoral issues, and direct democracy (i.e., ballot initiatives) here in the state of Florida. The blog can be accessed at: www.electionsmith.com and could be a useful source for information which can help you in negotiating the rigors of this class.

Grading Distribution

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

¹ The 3rd edition of the textbook can be used as an alternative to the 4th; used copies should be available on Amazon or ordered through book stores around town.

D- 60-62

E 59 and below

Grade Values for GPA Conversion

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

For more information about UF's Grades and Grade Policies:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Evaluation

Discussion Section Attendance/Participation 15%

Short Papers (2 x 10% each)

Lecture "Attendance Quizzes" (10 x 2% each)

Exams (3 x 15% each)

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to do the readings, attend class, and participate in discussion sections. Assigned readings for the week are to be completed before your discussion section begins. Attendance in your discussion section is mandatory, and the Teaching Assistants (TAs) will take attendance. You must attend the discussion section for which you are officially enrolled. If you cannot attend class on a regular basis, I would urge you to drop this class immediately. Your attendance and participation (in your discussion section) will count as 15% of your final grade.

Short Papers

Students will write two short papers. These essays are to be critical reflections on one of the questions posed in the syllabus under the discussion section topic heading. Each short paper is to be roughly 800 words (two to three double-spaced pages in 12 point font) and may be written in the first person. The essays should contain appropriate in-text citations as well as a reference page. *You cannot answer the same question twice!*

Your essays will be graded on the following:

- 1) A clear introductory statement of your argument.
- 2) Your ability to assemble evidence to support your argument.
- 3) Your ability to write a succinct, well-organized, well-edited short essay.
- 4) Your ability to answer the question asked.

A hard copy of your short paper is **due at the start** of your designated discussion class for the week of the assignment. Each of the two short essays is worth ten percentage points, for a total of 20% of your final grade. *TAs will accept no late short papers.* The T.A.'s will be responsible for grading the papers and returning them to you in a timely manner.

“Attendance” Quizzes

There will be 10 unannounced “attendance” quizzes during my general lectures. The quizzes will be on lecture material and recent readings. Quizzes will typically be subjective type questions (i.e., short answer) and are designed to show evidence that you’ve done the readings and attended class. The T.A.'s will grade them. Each quiz is worth two percentage points, for a total of 20% of your final grade. Students will receive one point for an incorrect answer; two points for a correct answer. As the questions will often take an opinionated perspective, the T.A.'s will be assessing the quality of the answer as to its evidentiary basis garnered from lectures and readings and not the view taken in the argument. *No makeup quizzes will be permitted except for official University functions that are brought to Dr. Caverly’s attention prior to the class you know you will miss.* I do not provide any makeup quizzes for sickness, family issues, or personal trials or tribulations; we all have them, occasionally.

Exams

There are three in-class exams. They will test your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures and in the assigned readings in approximately equal amounts. Each exam is composed of 35 multiple choice questions. Each is worth 15% of your final grade. Makeup exams are not permitted except in extenuating circumstances, and may only be arranged by Dr. Caverly (and not the TAs) prior to the exam. An unexcused absence on an exam results in a grade of 0%. You will receive review sheets in your discussion sections in the week prior to each exam. There will be an in-class review for each exam in the class period prior to the date of the exam (see schedule). *The last exam is given on the final exam date for exam schedule 30E which is, Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 30, 2014 in Little Hall, Room 101 (our regularly scheduled classroom).*

Extra Credit

Students may receive up to five percentage points of extra credit toward their final grade by attending a city or county commission meeting (held downtown) and writing up a 2-3 page critical analysis of the proceedings. Here are the links to the [city](#) and [county](#) commissions’ scheduled meetings. Your critical analyses must be turned in to your TA during the discussion section of the week you attended the meeting.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All students are expected to abide by the [UF Honor Code](#), which reads, in part: “I affirm that this work in its entirety is mine alone, and that I have received no outside assistance from anyone else, including classmates, other students, or faculty. I understand that plagiarism,

seeking or receiving other unauthorized assistance, or any false representations regarding this exam [or other work] are serious offenses punishable under the Student Honor Code.” Any student transgressing UF’s Honor Code will receive an ‘E’ for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities for disciplinary action.

Classroom Decorum

This is a large lecture class. Please be respectful of those students around you. During lectures, you are welcome to use electronic devices in class, but only to take notes and pull up online materials, if required. You are hereby advised that **Florida law forbids** the recording or filming of conversations without the consent of all parties, and any rebroadcast of my lecture is strictly prohibited. If you’d like to record my lectures for your personal use, you must get my permission first. Again, if granted, the recordings may be for your personal use only. **I expressly do not grant permission to copy, transcribe, reproduce, or otherwise publicly disseminate materials from my lectures.**

Students with Special Needs

It is the responsibility of students requiring any special accommodation for this course to make an appointment to see me at the beginning of the semester. I will make every effort possible to meet your needs in accordance to University guidelines.

Office Hours

If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to consult either me or your TA during our weekly office hours. You may drop by during our scheduled office hours, or you may email us.

Course and Reading Schedule

Section I: State Politics in a Federal System

WK I: Jan 6-10 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 1

Lectures: M & W

No Discussion Section Meetings this week!

WK II: Jan 13-17 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, Chapter 2

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What, if anything, is “special” about the existence of states and localities in our constitutional-federal system and could this be improved upon?

WK III: Jan 20-24 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 2

No Class on Monday January 20, 2014 MLK Day!

Lecture W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: Is there anything to the idea that state and regional cultures exist and have a role in determining a distinct character on a region like the South or in a state like California?

Section II: Linkages between Citizens and States

WK IV: Jan 27-31 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 3

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: Thinking about what we have done so far, what is the nature of the North-South divide in Florida how is this unique and is it changing?

WK V: Feb 3-7 Readings: None work on your paper!

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: *1st Short Paper is due at the beginning of the section's meeting. Review sheet for 1st exam disseminated.* Thinking about the recent off-year elections (2013) and last presidential election (2012) as well as the upcoming mid-term elections (2014) and presidential election (2016); how is it that states and localities are influencing and being influenced by national trends regarding issues, events, and personalities?

WK VI: Feb 10-14 Readings: None study for your exam!

Lectures: M In-class review for exam

W 1st exam

No Discussion Section Meetings this week!

WK VII: Feb 17-21 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 4

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What are the varieties of "direct democracy" across the states, how is it exhibited in Florida? Are these measures appropriate for use beyond the sub-national level, and what are their connections to issues as well as existing governmental structures?

WK VIII: Feb 24-28 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapters 5-6

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: How have political parties evolved regarding the degree of interparty competitiveness at the state and local level and are these recent changes positive or negative for our polity?

WK IX: Mar 3-7 Readings: No reading!
Lectures: No lectures!

Discussion Sections: No Discussion Sections!

SPRING BREAK!!!

WK X: Mar 10-14 Readings: None work on your paper!

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections: R & F

Discussion Section Topic: *2nd Short Paper due at the beginning of the discussion section! Review sheet for 2nd exam disseminated!* How have state/local elections been impacted, if at all, by interest group activism and is this “democratic?”

WK XI: Mar 17-21 Readings: None study for your exam!

Lectures: M Review for 2nd exam

W 2nd exam

No Discussion sections this week!

Section III: State Level Institutions

WK XII: Mar 24-28 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 7

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What is the paradox in state legislative elections and how does this impact state-wide governance? Does Florida’s legislature follow the pattern of other states or is it a deviator?

WK XIII: Mar 31-Apr 4 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 8

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections: R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What are the factors that make up the character of state level executive-legislative relations and normatively, where should the power reside, vested in a strong governorship, a strong legislature, or divided equally (and how should such a division be made if desired)?

Section IV: Local Government and Politics

WK XIV: Apr 7-11 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 11

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections: R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What is the character of local executive-legislative relations within the context of the debate between those advocating for a strong mayoral system versus those who agitate on behalf of a weak mayoral system?

WK XV: Apr 14-18 Readings: Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 12

Lectures: M & W

Discussion Sections: R & F

Discussion Section Topic: What are the issues underlying the “debate over growth” in metropolitan areas in Florida and across the country? In particular, what demands on resources, population impacts, rise of new cities and the fragmentation of old ones and what role is played by the state governments in all of this?

WK XVI: Apr 21-25 Readings: No reading study for the last exam!

Lectures: M last lecture—review sheet for 3rd exam disseminated in class!

W review for 3rd exam

Discussion Sections: No Discussion Sections meeting this week!

WK XVII: Apr 28-May 2 *Exam held in Little Hall, Room101 between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 30, 2014.*

