

PSC 204_02 American State and Local Government
Section 2 MLK Hall 106 Tues/Thurs T/Th 9:25 AM - 10:40 AM

Dr. Dorssom
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Office: MLK 415
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Office Hours: By Appointment Or
TR: 10:45-12:55pm (in-person)
W: 10-3pm (Virtual, via Zoom)

Communication Expectations: Emails sent/questions posted during the week (Monday – Friday), will be responded to within 24 hours. Questions posted/emails received over the weekend or during breaks/holidays will receive a response within 48 hours.

Course Description: This course examines government and politics at the state and local level, with emphasis on Missouri. It includes an analysis of the relationship, structure, functions, and trends in state and local governmental units. Additionally, this class will examine the scope of political participation in state and local parties, and public policymaking by state and local governments.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester:

- Students will be able to identify and describe the different types of federalism
- Students will be able to explain the variation in judicial selection processes in the states
- Students will be able to describe the variation in primary voting across the states
- Students will be able to describe variation in gubernatorial powers across the states

Keep these objectives in mind when completing the readings and assignments.

Required Texts

"State and Local Government" 11th Edition. by Ann O'M. Bowman, Richard C. Kearney, Carmine P. F. Scavo. Paperback ISBN: 9780357367407 EBook ISBN: 9780357711033

Class Requirements:

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A) Attendance and Participation—I will take roll beginning January 17th. For this course, a student may have three hours of absences without penalty. For every three hours of unexcused absences beyond the initial three, the student's final grade will be lowered by one letter. While circumstances may prevent perfect attendance, no absence will be excused without the proper authoritative documentation. This requirement serves two functions: 1) it is easier to clarify what you do not understand and reinforce what you do understand when you are in class; and 2) I will

be better able to evaluate your understanding of the material. Moreover, the level of discussion will be greatly elevated if you would watch, listen, or read some current-event source daily. You will be asked to write briefly on various current events as part of your participation grade. In addition, use of cell phones in class is strictly prohibited, including text message functions. The penalty for cell phone use will be an F for participation that day.

B) Do All the Readings—This requirement too will greatly improve your grade and understanding for the following reasons: 1) prior reading allows you to determine areas of needed clarification before class; 2) you will be better equipped to participate intelligently in class; 3) you will be better prepared to answer questions on the quizzes; and 4) thorough reading will aid in your ability to bring the appropriate citations to your writing assignments. Short quizzes will be given through Canvas each week to confirm students are aware of key concepts and arguments associated with the assigned readings. You should take the quiz in one sitting, and the quiz is open book.

Take the 3 Exams –These tests will reflect lectures, discussions, current events, and the reading materials assigned. You will be expected to define terms and concepts from course materials and utilize them appropriately in order to answer questions posed on all exams. All exams will consist of multiple choice and short identification questions. You may take one make-up exam subject to the following conditions. 1) You must notify me before the exam that you are not able to take the test. No exceptions are allowed! If you do not reach me before the exam, thereby receiving permission to miss the test, you may not take a makeup. 2) No one will be allowed to take more than one make-up test. 3) All make-up exams will be in ID format on May 4th, in a room to be announced. There will be no opportunities for extra credit and no multiple-choice questions. Be advised that people who take make-ups tend to do less well on them than on scheduled exams. Therefore, please do not take the make-up option unless necessary. These exams will be taken in-class using blue books, i.e., you will write your exam on paper in class. The final will be comprehensive, that is, it will cover all material presented during the semester. Tests 1 and 2 will cover only material corresponding to those sections of the course. Tests will typically have one essay question and short answer and definitions. I give detailed feedback on each test, and I expect the student to improve on subsequent tests based on this feedback.

Writing Assignments - each student will be required to complete an independent research project. It must focus on connecting a key theory, principle, or debate associated with American State and Local Government to a current topic in American State and Local Politics or society. Both the Rough and Final Drafts of the paper will be submitted through Canvas. The project consists of 4 parts: a topic proposal, an outline, a rough draft and a final draft. Students will be provided with project guidelines, writing guidance, and research assistance as appropriate. The

writing assignments are spaced across the length of the semester and represent 40% of the final grade.

Discussion Boards - students will be required to complete a series of discussion board posts. Each assignment will require three (3) individual post by each student. The primary post MUST be a minimum of page in length and discuss a key aspect of an issue/topic examined during the week utilizing direct reference to course materials. Each student must then post two (2) replies to two different 'primary posts' of their classmates. Replies must be a minimum of a half page in length and offer critical perspectives, additional questions, or other further discussion of the topic.

Extra Credit—This opportunity is available on each quiz based upon a current-events question. You may also receive extra credit by attending approved events on campus. Lastly, you may also receive credit by volunteering for a secular, charitable, or non-profit organization here in Jefferson City. For every two hours of volunteer work, you will receive points toward your attendance/participation grade. These points translate into approximately a three percent difference in your final participation grade: for example a B to a B+. The final due date for turning in hours is: May 4th.

Summary of Grade Distribution:

Attendance & Participation	10 percent
Discussion Boards	10 percent
Weekly Reading Quizzes	10 percent
3 Exams	30 percent
Paper Outline & Topic Proposal	10 percent
Writing Assignment: Rough Draft	15 percent
Writing Assignment: Final Draft	15 percent.

Grading Scale:

90-100 A

80-89.5 B

70-79.5 C

60-69.5 D

Below 59.5 F

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

January 24	Local Government Discussion
January 26	Topic Proposal
February 14	Paper Outline
February 28	Exam 1
March 2	Political Participation Discussion
March 11	Rough Draft
March 21	State Legislatures Discussion
March 30	Exam 2
April 4	Final Draft
April 13	State Courts Discussion
April 20	Direct Democracy Discussion
May 4	End of Class Discussion
Daily	Participation
XXXX	Final Exam

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

January 17th: Introduction

January 19th: Local Leadership and Governance
Bowman et. al Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

January 24: Historical Development of the States and State-Local Relations
Bowman et. al Chapter 12

JANUARY 24TH - LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION DUE

January 26-February 9th: State Constitutions, Federalism, and Political Cultures
Bowman et. al Chapter 2

Bowman et. al Chapter 3

JANUARY 26TH - TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE

FEBRUARY 7TH - STATE CAPITOL TOUR

February 14-23: Political Parties, Participation and Voting in the States
Bowman et al. Chapter 4 (Political Parties and Elections section)

FEBRUARY 14TH - PAPER OUTLINE DUE

FEBRUARY 28TH: FIRST EXAMINATION

March 2: Interest Groups

MARCH 2 - POLITICAL PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION DUE

Bowman et al. Chapter 5

JAMES OWEN GUEST SPEAKER

March 7-16: State Legislatures

Bowman et al. Chapter 6

MARCH 11TH - ROUGH DRAFT DUE

MARCH 13TH-17TH SPRING BREAK

March 21- 28: Governors and the Executive Branch

Bowman et al. Chapter 7

MARCH 21ST - STATE LEGISLATURES DISCUSSION DUE

MARCH 30: SECOND EXAMINATION

March 30th - April 4: State Courts

Bowman et al. Chapter 9

APRIL 4TH MISSOURI SUPREME COURT TOUR

APRIL 13TH: STATE COURTS DISCUSSION DUE

April 6-13: Direct Democracy in the States

Bowman et al. Chapter 4 - (start with Direct Democracy section and finish chapter)

April 18-20th: State Policies: Budgets, Taxation, and Spending

Bowman et al. Chapter 13

APRIL 20TH: DIRECT DEMOCRACY DISCUSSION DUE

April 25th- 27th: Social Welfare and Healthcare Policy

Bowman et. al Chapter 17

May 2nd - 4th: Education Policy

Bowman et. al Chapter 15

MAY 4TH: END OF CLASS DISCUSSION DUE

FINAL EXAM: MAY 8TH-11TH (EXACT DATE TO-BE-ANNOUNCED)

University Attendance Policy (modification/detailed above for this course):

Students are expected to attend all lectures, seminars, laboratories, and field work for each registered class and to complete all work assigned by the instructor. Due to the relationship between class attendance and final course grades, total absences ideally should not exceed twice the number of times a class meets per week.

Examples:

- Courses meeting three times/week: maximum of six absences acceptable
- Courses meeting one time/week: maximum of two absences acceptable

The maximum acceptable number of absences in other class formats, i.e., eight-week, four-week summer session, and intersession, should be prorated according to the formula above. If a student exceeds the maximum number of acceptable absences for a course, the course instructor may choose to lower the student's grade by one letter. The attendance policy must be clearly stated in the syllabus at the beginning of the course. Attendance policies of individual instructors may vary from the guidelines above provided this policy is clearly stated in the syllabus at the beginning of the course. In addition, course instructors will determine the following and will post it in all syllabi:

- Consequences for coming late and leaving class early
- Make-up policies for course work, quizzes, and exams

University Policy on Conduct and Academic Integrity:

CONDUCT

A student is held fully responsible for any breach of generally recognized rules of good conduct. Any student whose character or conduct is deemed harmful to the best interests of the University is subject to dismissal at any time from any course, or from the University, irrespective of academic record.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING

The most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is defined as unauthorized use of any materials, aids or information of assistance in doing any work required as part of a course. Plagiarism is the attempt to pass off another person's work as one's own by failing to give credit to the original source of ideas or words. Students who are found to be guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to the policies and procedures as outlined below.

1. Any student guilty of cheating will be reported in writing to the department head and the dean of the college or school of the course involved and to the department head and the dean of the college or school in the student's major.
2. Any student found guilty of cheating may receive, at the discretion of the instructor, a failing grade in the course.
3. Disciplinary action for cheating may include suspension for one or more semesters, exclusion from selected programs of study or permanent expulsion from the University.

Procedures for implementing Policies 1 and 3 (when action is recommended) shall be the responsibility of the academic unit in which the violation occurred. All students accused of

cheating have the right of appeal through normal channels – the instructor, department head and dean. In the case of the Schools of Business, Education and Nursing, the appeal shall go from the instructor to the dean.

Dorssom Classroom Etiquette and Cheating Further Explained:

In order to facilitate a congenial atmosphere throughout the semester, please refrain from all forms of plagiarism and be respectful to your colleagues. We will be discussing controversial topics this semester, and no matter how strong our personal views on the issues, these feelings will not be the focus of our discussion. The only context in which these feelings will be addressed is in how they affect and are translated into public policies and government institutions. Please remember the difference in and out of class when discussing contentious political, economic, or social issues. Friendships will last much longer if you are respectful of others' views!

Lincoln University and Dr. Dorssom hold students to high standards of academic integrity and will not tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of intellectual dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating or copying, fabricating data or citations, stealing examinations, taking an exam for another student or having another student take an exam intended for oneself, tampering with the academic work of another student, submitting another's work as one's own, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, using internet sources without citation and plagiarizing.

If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please consult me or the counselors at the Student Success Center before turning in any final draft of your essay. You may also refer to the student handbook. To be safe: ANY thoughts, phrases, or entire passages—either summarized or quoted—taken from others should be followed by a citation. If cheating or 'shared work' of any kind is discovered, I will fail the student for the semester and file a report with the appropriate university authorities.

AI technologies to generate text is not allowed and will be treated as a violation of the Lincoln University Academic Integrity Policy.

Class Conduct: A positive learning environment relies upon creating an atmosphere where diverse perspectives can be expressed, especially in a course that focuses on pressing and controversial social and political issues. Each student is encouraged to take an active part in class discussions and activities. Honest and respectful dialogue is expected. Disagreement and challenging of ideas in a supportive and sensitive manner is encouraged. Hostility and disrespectful behavior is not acceptable. Just as we expect others to listen attentively to our own views, we must reciprocate and listen to others when they speak, especially when we disagree with them. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from one another. Please respect each others' opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. Finally, remember to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature that are discussed in

class. Any student causing a disruption or not adhering to the class conduct as specified in the syllabus in the classroom will be asked to leave.

Title IX Complaint Policy and Procedures

Lincoln University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, in education programs and activities. Title IX protects individuals from harassment connected to any of the academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic and other programs, activities, or employment of schools, regardless of the location. Title IX protects all individuals from sexual harassment by any school employee, student, and a non-employee third party. This policy applies equally to all students and employees regardless of the sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of any of the individuals involved. No officer, employee, or agent of the institution participating in any program under this title shall retaliate, intimidate, threaten, coerce, or otherwise discriminate against any individual for exercising their rights or responsibilities under any provision of this policy. Questions, concerns, and/or complaints can be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator, Shawnda Hayes-Dunnell, 900 Leslie Blvd., Suite C, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101; 573-681-5495; titleix@lincolnu.edu.

University Services for Students with Disabilities:

Applicants for admission and employment, students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all professional organizations holding professional agreements with Lincoln University are hereby notified that this institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is directed to contact the appropriately designated campus official. For Title VI, contact Human Resources at (573) 681-5018; for Title IX, contact the Title IX Coordinator at (573) 681-5003; and for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact the Coordinator for Access and Ability Services at (573) 681-5167. The Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, may also be contacted regarding the University's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Statement for Mental Health

Sometimes, the struggles we face in college are not academic. Difficult times can be very personal and emotionally exhausting. Student Counseling Services is here to help you through those times. Student Counseling Services provides individual and group counseling, drug and alcohol recovery support, and educational opportunities to students on a variety of topics, including career questions, anxiety, depression, anger, and relationships.

If you need someone to help, or just want an objective listener, contact Student Counseling Services. They are here for you. You can reach Student Counseling Services at (573) 681-5164

from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. There is also a 24-hour crisis hotline available at 1-800-833-3915.

Here is a link for additional resources and support:

<https://www.lincolnu.edu/web/student-counseling-services/public-resources>