

Political Science 3030
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Fall 2007
DRAFT

Remember to Register to Vote

Instructor

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Office Hours: T, 2:45-3:45 p.m.
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This class is an introductory survey course designed to acquaint students with the institutions, politics, and policies of state and local governments in the United States. An underlying assumption of this course is that states and localities are the linchpin of a stable and viable democracy. Therefore, a major objective of the course is the empowerment of each student; that is, to provide students with the understanding, analytical and political skills, and motivation (efficacy) to become an active part of state and local government and politics. The problems that are addressed at the state and local levels are highly contentious and controversial. Students who are attached to a rigid set of opinions and unable to listen comfortably to contrary positions will find this class extremely frustrating.

Required Texts

David C. Saffell & Harry Basehart, *State and Local Government: Politics & Public Policies*, 8th ed. (2005).*

Bruce Stinebrickner, ed. *State and Local Government: Annual Editions* (2007).**

**A copy of each text will be placed on reserve in Marriott Library during the first week of class.

In addition, each student is required to read a daily local newspaper such as the *Salt Lake Tribune* or *Deseret News*. These papers are available free to all students on campus. All three papers also are available in Marriott Library, the Hinckley Institute of Politics (OSH 253), the Public Policy & Administration Library (OSH 214), and on the Internet. The edition on the internet is NOT a complete one so relying upon this source is a liability for the news quizzes. **The questions for the news quizzes are taken from the *Salt Lake Tribune*.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Examinations: There will be three examinations. The dates of the examinations are listed below in the syllabus. None of the exams is comprehensive. Each exam will include multiple-choice and/or true-false and short answer questions. Make-up exams are given only to students who cannot attend due to illness or an athletic or debate commitment, *and who have contacted the instructor in advance*. **Under no circumstances will late exams be given to students who cannot attend due to family or work commitments, including weddings, family vacations or job interviews out of town. If this course conflicts with your work schedule or family responsibilities, then drop the class.**

News Quizzes: There will be four (4) news quizzes formatted to test students' understanding of political and governmental events at the state and local government. Each quiz will include four (4) short answer questions. The quiz will be comprehensive for the three (3) or four (4) weeks preceding each quiz excepting the morning of the test. **There is no early, late or make-up option for quizzes.** The exceptions are athletes or debate members who provide documentation of game or meet conflicts during the first full week of class. The dates of the quizzes are listed below on the syllabus.

Meeting Report: Students are required to attend and report on at least one (1) formal meeting of a state or local governmental decision/ policy-making body including any meeting held by a city council, county commission, planning commission and/or state or local school board. Meetings must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Policy Paper: For this assignment, students will work in groups to identify a public policy problem facing your community. You will research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, develop a solution in the form of a public policy recommendation, and create a political action plan to enlist local and/or state authorities to adopt your proposed policy. You are required to submit your policy paper in both electronic form to the UU plagiarism program *Turnitin* and printed form to the instructor.

Class Participation: Student participation is strongly encouraged and rewarded. Attendance will be taken and active class involvement noted.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until the class has been formally dismissed. Eating, talking and/or walking in and out during the lecture period are prohibited and may affect your grade.

Three Examinations	60%
News Quizzes (4 points each)	16%
State/Local Meeting Report	5%
Policy Paper	15%

Participation 4%

There are no extra-credit options for this course.

Grading: Students are credited with points for the amount of correct information that is provided on the exams and quizzes. **Letter grades are assigned on a curved basis beginning with the student with the highest number of points.** Thus, if 92 out of a 100 is the top score, then the grades are distributed accordingly with 92 (not 100) beginning the As. Final grades are computed on a point basis, with the top score once again beginning the distribution. Consideration will be given to students who attend class regularly. **University regulations limit an incomplete to exceptional cases and students who have completed at least 80% of the course work.**

WebCT: To be arranged.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments: It is suggested that you complete the assigned readings either prior to or immediately following the class lecture.

Week One*:

August 21st: Overview of the class.

August 23rd: Why be interested and involved in state and local government and politics? Explaining State Diversity: the Politics of Utah.

- Saffell & Basehart, Preface & pp. 1-21.
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah>- focus on history and politics.

Week Two*:

August 28th: Intergovernmental Relations: the View from the U.S. Constitution.

- Saffell & Basehart, pp. 22-33 & Ch. 2.
- *Annual Editions*, #1, #2 & #3.

August 30th: Intergovernmental Relations: the View from History.

- *Annual Editions*, #4 & #5.

Week Three*:

September 4th: Intergovernmental Relations: State Resurgence.

- *Annual Editions*, #8.
- Read the *Utah State Constitution*, available on-line.

September 6th: **News Quiz #1.** Politics at the State and Local Level: Interest Groups & Political Parties.

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 3.
- *Annual Editions*, #9, #10, #11 & #13.

Week Four*:

September 11th: Politics at the State and Local Level: Elections, Political Engagement & Direct Democracy.

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 4.
- *Annual Editions*, #14, #14, #16 & #17.

September 13th: **Review for Exam #1.**

Week Five*:

September 18th: **Exam #1- in class.**

September 20th: State and Local Legislatures.

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 5.
- *Annual Editions*, #21, #22, #23 & #24.

Week Six*:

September 25th: Forum: "The Groups That Stole Utah Government: Controlling Special Interests." Meet in the Hinckley Caucus Room, OSH 255.

September 27th: Governors, Bureaucrats, and Mayors. **News Quiz #2**

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 6.
- *Annual Editions*, #25, #26, #27 & #28.

Week Seven*:

October 2nd: Governors, etc., continued.

October 4th: Guest Speaker: Tom Patterson, Director, Utah Department of Corrections, "Transparency and Accountability: New Challenges in Penal Administration" Meet in the Hinckley Caucus Room, OSH 255.

October 9th & 11th FALL BREAK- NO CLASSES

Week Eight*: Courts.

- October 16th: Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 7.
- *Annual Editions*, #12 & #31.

October 18th: Suburbs, Metropolitan Areas, Rural Communities.

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 9.
- *Annual Editions*, #33, #34, #35 & #36.

Week Nine*:

October 23rd: **Review for Exam #2.**

October 25th: **Exam #2- in class.**

Week Ten*:

October 30th: Financing State and Local Governments: Revenue and Expenditures- Where it comes from, where it goes. Guest Speaker: Lincoln Shurtz, Director of Legislative Affairs, Utah League of Cities and Towns. Meet in the Hinckley Caucus Room, OSH 255.

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 8.
- *Annual Editions*, #37, #38 & #39.

November 1st: Policy Analysis: An Introduction. **News Quiz #3**

- Saffell & Basehart, Ch. 10.
- *Annual Editions*, #44 & #50.

Week Eleven*:

November 6th: Education Policy.

- *Annual Editions*, #6 (NCLB).
- Student Reports.

ELECTION DAY. BE SURE TO VOTE!

November 8th: Education, contd.

- Student Reports.

Week Twelve*:

November 13th: Social Welfare & Health Policy.

- *Annual Editions*, #47.
- Student Reports.

November 15th: Social Welfare, Health continued.

- Student Reports.

Week Thirteen*:

November 20th: Environmental Policy and Economic Development.

- *Annual Editions*, #7, #40, #41, #42 & #43.
- Student Reports.

November 22nd: **THANKSGIVING DAY. NO CLASS.**

Week Fourteen*:

November 27th: Public Safety.

- *Annual Editions*, #29, #30, #32, #46, & #49

- Student Reports.

November 29th: Public Safety continued. **Quiz #4**

- Student Reports

Week Fifteen*:

December 4th: **Review for Exam #3.**

December 6th: **Exam #3. In-Class**

- An asterisk indicates the approximate nature of the dates since guest lectures will be held concurrently with the Hinckley Institute of Politics. This may affect the content and/or scheduling of the examinations. Students who do not attend class regularly and rely on this syllabus may be insufficiently prepared for the exams and news quizzes.
- The CSBS e-mail server is unreliable. If I do not respond to your e-mail within 24 hours, please contact me at my hotmail address.
- Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first full week of the semester along with the request for special accommodations. Please contact the Center for Disabled Student Service, 160 Union Building, 581-5020.
- NOTE: Any student caught cheating on an exam or news quiz, or found guilty of plagiarism on the policy paper, will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Two episodes of cheating will result in a failing grade for the course.