

Michael Christensen, Ph.D.  
Work: 538-1032  
Home: 253-1890  
Email:

prof.chris@comcast.net

**Political Science 3030-1  
State and Local Government  
Summer Semester 2005  
(OSH 237)  
Thursdays 6:00PM -8:30PM**

**I. Course Overview**

State and local governments impact our lives on a daily basis and yet we as Americans seem to know less about them than we do about our national government. Among other services, states provide public safety, higher education, health care, highways, prisons and courts. County and city governments provide our police, sheriffs, and firefighters, parks and swimming pools, roads and sewer systems, airports, and regulate the use of our land. School districts educate us and our children and spend more of our tax dollars than any other local government. It is these types of governments and others that we will learn about in this class. I will also give you the opportunity to hear from and talk to a state legislator, district court judge and local government official.

**II. Class Dates ( Topics and tests)**

May	19	Course Overview Chapter 1: Face to Face Governance Chapter 2: State Diversity, Growth, Decline, and the Contemporary Urban Dilemma
	26	Chapter 3: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations Chapter 4: Constitutions and Charters
June	02	C Chapter 5: Policy-Making Processes: The Framework for Participation and <b>Hand out take home test on Dresang Text:</b>

**Parts 1 and 2 (Chapters 1-5)**

09

Chapter 6: Grassroots Participation

Chapter 7: Interest Groups

	16	Chapter 8: Political Parties and Electrons Chapter Chapter 9: Governors
	23	Chapter 10: State Legislators Special Guests: Utah State legislator
	30	Chapter 12: Bureaucracies Chapter 13: Courts <b>Hand out test two: Parts III and IV of Text (Chapt. 6-13)</b>
July	07	Chapter 11: Local Government Executives and Legislatures Utah Third District Court Judge Robin Reese
	14	Chapter 14: Crime and Corrections Chapter 15: Educational Policy
	21	Chapter 16: Social Welfare and Health Policy Chapter 17: Environmental Policy and Economic Development
	28	Chapter 18: Fiscal and Financial Management  <i>Republic On Trial</i> (all chapters) Review for Test Three
August	04	<b>Test Three: Section V of text</b>  <b>(chapters 14-18) and Republic On Trial (chapters 1-10)</b>

### III. Books, Tests and Other Important Information

**Books:** Dennis Dresang and James Gosling, *Politics and Policy in American States and Communities*, (fifth edition, 2005). This text begins by discussing the unique plurality of American society mainly created

by immigration, but also resulting from the nation's regional and economic diversity. The authors then discuss the structure of state and local governments and the various ways people can interact with government how our diversity creates conflict and challenges for governing states and local governments.

Rosenthal, Alan, et.al., *Republic On Trial: The Case for Representative Democracy* (2003). This short book discusses the decline in the respect and trust Americans have in the democratic process especially with state legislatures. They discuss the possible reasons why this has happened and what that means for governing. They then compare how government works with how the Founding Fathers had envisioned it. Lastly they look at alternatives to our system and conclude that it is the best alternative available.

**Tests:** All tests are a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer essays. You are expected to take the test as scheduled. If circumstances prevent this, and you notify me ahead of the scheduled test, arrangements can be made for a different test time without penalty. Any student missing the test on the scheduled date and who does not notify me ahead of the test may still take a make up test within a week but will be penalized 15 percent. No test made be made up after a week has passed.

**Grading** is not done on a curve. Rather grades are based on a straight line scale. 90% and up is an A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69%=D, 50-59% = D, 50 and below is an E. I may make some minor changes to this general policy based on overall class performance.

**Attendance and  
bonus points:**

I do not take attendance, but I will always provide for bonus point questions on all tests. The bonus point questions and the answers are given during classes and can only be obtained by attending the class in which the bonus point question is given. Bonus points can total 10% of possible points.

**Extra Credit:**

There will be **no extra credit** reports, papers etc., other than the bonus points already discussed.

**Contacting the**

**Professor:** I am an adjunct professor and therefore have no campus office or phone number. However, I do want to be available and accessible. You are welcome to email me and I will respond quickly, within 48 hours. You can also call me at my home anytime. If I am not there (which is usually the case), leave a message and I will call you back, usually the same day. If all else fails you may call me at work, but I prefer to have this as a last option. **If you miss a class, I strongly encourage you to contact me as soon as possible to see what you missed. Since my work sometimes forces me to change the agenda at short notice, consistent attendance or immediate contact after missing a class is to your definite advantage.**

**Persons with**

**disabilities:** Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for the class are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Written documentation should be provided and the type of accommodations needed described.

**Important Semester****Dates:**

Wednesday, May 25 - Last day to drop classes  
Friday June 3 - Tuition payment due  
Tuesday May 31 - Last day to add classes  
Tuesday May 31 - Last day to choose CR/NC  
Tuesday, May 17 - Grades available on the Web