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**Political Science 3030–070**  
**Fall Semester 2007**  
**6:00PM – 9:00PM**  
**Sandy Campus**  
**Room 127**

**I. Course Overview**

Most of us know more about our national government than our state and local governments. The national media almost imposes the daily activities of the nation's president on our lives. But the actions of our governors and state legislatures are covered less extensively. And the daily work of our mayors, city and county councils, school district board members even less so. Yet these state and local government officials impact our lives enormously. They tax us and thereby provide schools, roads, parks, water systems, and electrical power. They police our streets and neighborhoods, settle most of our court cases and incarcerate over 90 percent of all prisoners. They put out our fires, pick up our garbage, regulate our businesses and decide how we can use our land.

Given the broad reach and impact of state and local governments, it is to our advantage to understand them better. This course is designed to help students develop a clearer understanding of their state and local governments. In this course we will discuss the diversity of the fifty states and how that impacts governing. We will look at governors, legislatures and state courts. We will discuss grassroots participation and the influence of interest groups and the role of political parties. We cover specific public policy issues such as: education, health care, social welfare, public safety, transportation, environment, and economic development. Lastly, we will discuss the challenge of governing in these fast changing times and make a case for the wonder of representative democracy.

**II. Class Dates**

August	20	Class introduction Chapter 1: Face-to-Face Governance Chapter 2: State Diversity, Growth, and Decline, and the Contemporary Urban Dilemma
	27	Chapter 3: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations Chapter 4: Constitutions and Charters
September	03	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

	10	Chapter 5: Policy-Making Processes Hand out take home test for Text Chapters 1-5
	17	Chapter 6: Grassroots Participation Chapter 7: Interest Groups
October	01	Chapter 8: Political Parties and Elections Chapter 9: Governors
	08	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
	15	Chapter 10: State Legislatures Chapter 11: Local Government Executives and Legislatures
	22	Chapter 12: Bureaucracies Chapter 13: Courts Review for Test Two (Chapters 6-13)
	29	Test Two – in class exam (Chapters 6-13)
November	05	Guest Lecturer: The Honorable Robin Rees, Judge, Third District Court of Utah
	12	Chapter 14: Crime and Corrections Chapter 15: Educational Policy
	19	Chapter 16: Social Welfare and Health Policy Chapter 17: Environmental Policy and Economic Development Chapter 18: Fiscal and Financial Management
	26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
	31	Guest Lecturer: Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives Greg Curtis
December	03	<i>Republic On Trial</i>
	10	Final Exam regular class time, Chapters 14-19 and <i>Republic on Trial</i>

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

**Books:** There are two books for the class.

*Politics and Policy in American States and Communities*, Dennis Dresang and James Gosling, (Pearson Education, Inc. 2007).

*Republic On Trial*, Alan Rosenthal, et. al., (CQ Press, 2003).

#### **Lectures and Class Discussions**

All lectures and class discussions on the chapters in *Politics and Policy in American States and Communities* are presented in PowerPoint and will be available on Web CT. This allows students to have access to the essence of each lecture. Students may want to print out the PowerPoint presentation and bring it to class and just add their notes to the PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Tests**

All tests are a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank or short answer essays. You are expected to take the tests 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 has not notified me ahead of the test may still take a make-up test within a week, but will be penalized 15 percent. No test may be made up after a week has passed.

Grades are based on a straight line scale: 90% and above is an A; 80-89% is a B; 70-79% is a C; 60-69% is a D; and 59% and below is an E. Minor adjustments to this policy may be made based on overall class performance.

#### **Attendance and Bonus Points**

I do not take attendance, but I will always provide bonus point questions for all tests. The bonus point questions and the answers are given in class and can only be obtained by attending the class in which the bonus point question is given. Bonus points can total up to 10% of the total 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 associate professor and therefore have no campus office or phone. However, I want to be available and accessible. I encourage you to **email** me when you have questions or concerns and I will respond quickly, usually within 24 hours. You can also call me at my home anytime. If I am not there (which is usually the case) leave me a message and I will call you back, usually that evening when I get home from work. If all else fails you may call me at work, but I prefer to have this as a last option. If you miss 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 with me after missing a class is to your definite advantage.

### **Persons with Disabilities**

Any person with a disability that requires special accommodations for class is encouraged to notify me at the beginning of the semester. Please be willing to provide written documentation of the disability and type of accommodations you will need. I will do all I can to make the class work for you

### **Important Semester Dates**

Last day to drop classes	August 29
Last day to add classes	September 4
Last day to elect CR/NC	September 4
Tuition payment due	September 4
Classes end	December 7
Final exam period	December 10-14
Grades available on Web	December 27

*Class Number 13748*