

Political Science 3030-90
State and Local Government
WebCt Online Course
Spring Semester 2008

Instructor: H.H. Franco, Adjunct Faculty

Office Hours: *Online Thursday Mornings, 9:00-9:30 a.m. in the 'common chat room'.*

Use WebCt email feature (located on the sidebar) to contact me. (I'll reply usually within 24 hours on weekdays.)

Course Description

POLS 3030- State and Local Government (3 credit hours) (This also = 3 hrs of class each week times 2 hours of study per class hour = 6 hours of study expected each week. This is your expected study time each week even though this is an online course without regular class sessions.)

Politics, structure and activities of state and local governments, intergovernmental relations, legal and theoretical concerns, political processes, and administrative issues. (No prerequisite course required.)

Welcome! This semester you will be introduced to the institutions, processes and politics of state and local government in the U.S. We will survey the 50 states, their similarities and differences online. Every month you will log online for live chats between the instructor and the class. We will discuss the assignments, exams and readings.

Course Objectives and Learning/Teaching Methods

By taking this course, you will *first*, gain an in-depth understanding of state and local government institutions, issues, policies and history. You will learn this thru the readings and on-line chat discussions. You will be tested on this in three exams. This knowledge is invaluable for anyone working in state or local government or any citizen that wants to understand what is happening and why at their state capitol or city hall and *make a difference*. *Second*, your written student report gives you an overview of the actual workings of state & local government based on your interests. You will research the history, government organization, and budget of a state or local government job or policy. You can pick any state or local government job or policy to write on. Many students have used this assignment to find out what jobs they could actually work in after graduating. Some students have received job offers when doing their research. Make this report assignment work for you by picking a job or policy that really interests you. Read about the 'report requirements' and the 'report proposal' under 'assignments' on the sidebar of the homepage.

Course Requirements

- Every week you should:**
- 1) log into this course to check any 'announcements.'
 - 2) check the 'syllabus' for the weekly readings & assignments.
 - 3) have 2-3 chapters of readings.
 - 4) listen to the podcast lecture for the weekly readings.

Every week I will hold office hours (above) where you can log in to ask any questions.

- Every month there will be:**
- 1) a one-hour live chat to prepare for the exams & assignments. Check the 'announcements' for times & days.
 - 2) an exam and/or an assignment. (Feb. & April have both.)

Course Evaluation Methods

These are the course assignments:

-Online Chat Discussions (3 total)	5% of grade	30 pts (10 pts each)
-Student Report (8 pgs. on state/local gov. policy or job) Report Proposal Assignment (4%) Report (23%)	26% of grade	125 pts
-Exam I	23% of grade	100 pts
-Exam II	21% of grade	85 pts
-Final	<u>25% of grade</u>	<u>115 pts</u>
	TOTAL PTS:	455 pts

Textbooks

Dresang, Dennis L. and James J. Gosling. *Politics and Policy in American States and Communities*, 6th ed. Pearson Education, Inc: USA 2008. [Referred to as *Politics*.]

Rosenthal, Alan, et al. *Republic on Trial: The Case for Representative Democracy*. CQ Press, Washington, D.C.: 2003. [Referred to as *Republic*.]

Course Outline (assignments and tests are underlined.)

Jan. 7 *Politics*, Ch. 1-2 & *Republic*, Ch. 1

Jan. 14 *Politics*, Ch. 3-4 & *Republic*, Ch. 2
Register for Exam I on 'Uonline Exam' Icon.

Jan. 22 *Politics*, Ch. 5-6 & *Republic*, Ch. 3

Jan. 28 *Politics*, Ch. 7 & *Republic*, Ch. 6
**Chat Groups This Week. Check 'announcements' for days/times.

Feb. 7 or 9 Exam I

Feb. 11 *Politics*, Ch. 8 & 9
Register for Exam II at 'Uonline Exam' Icon.

Feb. 19 *Politics*, Ch. 10 & *Republic*, Ch. 4

Feb. 22 Report Proposal Due By Midnight (upload your proposal under 'assignments', then 'report proposal').

Feb. 25 *Republic*, Ch. 5 & 7

March 3 *Republic*, Ch. 8, 9 & 10
**Chat Groups This Week. Check 'announcements.'

March 13 or 15 Exam II

March 17-22 Spring Break

March 24 *Politics*, Ch. 11 & 12

March 31 *Politics*, Ch. 13 & 14

April 4 **Report Due By Midnight** (*upload your report file under ‘assignments’ then ‘report requirements.’*)

April 7 *Politics*, Ch. 15 & 16 (**Register for the final under the ‘uonline exam’ icon.**)
****Chat Groups This Week.** (Check ‘announcements’ for days/times.)

April 14 *Politics*, Ch. 17 & 18

April 23 **Classes End**

April 25 or 26 **FINAL** (*You can pick either day at the ‘uonline exam’ link.*)

May 13 **Grades available online.**

ADA Accommodations: (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/).

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”

Student and Faculty Responsibilities: (www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html)

“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from and class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”