

Syllabus for PS 2100, Section 1
State Government
Fall 2014

Location:

MWF 3:00–3:50, 201 Switzler Hall

Professor: Bryce J. Dietrich

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Office Hours: MWF 2:00–3:00pm, 4:00–5:00pm, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: JoyAnna Hopper

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Office Hours: T 11:00am–1:00pm, W 1:00–3:00pm, R 10:00am–12pm

Text: *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis*, Virginia Gray, Russell L. Hanson, and Thad Kousser, Tenth Edition, ISBN 9781608719983

Other Readings: The rest of the readings will be available on my website. Click on Teaching → Political Science 2100: Fall 2014

Material to be Covered: This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the study of state politics. The course will cover two broad areas: the foundation of state politics and states in action. Within each of these areas we will focus extensively on the state of Missouri. By the end of the course, students should be able to answer the following questions. First, why are state governments organized the way they are? How does the state

of Missouri compare to other states? Second, how has Missouri changed over the years? What caused these changes? Third, how do states affect our lives? What types of policies do they pass? Are any of those policies unique to Missouri? To answer these questions, each week we will begin with a focused discussion on the assigned readings, then on Friday we will relate those readings to Missouri. As students of the University of Missouri, many of the topics will be relatable. Given that, students are encouraged to bring their own ideas and opinions to class every day.

Writing Assignments: There will be two writing assignments over the course of the semester, one will be due on **10/6**, the other on **12/10**. Each will be approximately 5-7 pages long and will be worth 15% of your final grade. Each assignment will be posted two weeks in advance of the due date.

Participation and Short Assignments: Students are expected to participate in class. This means students should have finished all the assigned readings before class and be an active participant in discussion. Additionally, there may be occasional short writing assignments. Each short assignment will be posted one week in advance of the due date. Your final participation grade (including the short assignments) will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Absences: Regular attendance is expected. However, attendance will not be taken. With that said, it is difficult to participate when you are not here, meaning if you consistently miss class, your absences may affect your participation grade.

Midterm Exams: There will be one midterm exam. This exam will be on **10/31**. The midterm exam will be worth 25% of your final grade and will be composed of both short answer and essay questions.

Final Exam: The final exam will be on **Wednesday, December 17th 12:30-2:30PM**. The final exam will be worth 35% of your final grade. The final exam will be composed of both short answer and essay questions, with half covering material since the midterm and half covering material from the whole course.

Grading:

Final Exam	35%
Midterm Exam	25%
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%
Participation and Short Assignments	10%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Late work will not be accepted and no make-up exams will be given. There should be no problems meeting the expectations of the course. There are only a handful of assignments and exams, and I will make sure to give you plenty of notice ahead of time.

Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If caught, you will be punished under the guidelines provided by the University of Missouri. Please consult the *Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities* for more information:

<http://osrr.missouri.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>

Provisions for Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

Calendar The calendar below gives the dates of exams and other important deadlines for the course. Readings should be completed **prior** to the start of class. This calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and posted on my website.

Unit I: Foundations of State Politics

Week 1: State Context

- Monday 25 Aug Welcome and Introductions
No Readings
- Wednesday 27 Aug States in Context
Gray et al., Ch 1
- Friday 29 Aug Missouri in Context I
No Readings

Week 2: Federalism I

- Monday 1 Sep No Class
No Readings
- Wednesday 3 Sep Missouri in Context II
No Readings
- Friday 5 Sep Introduction to Federalism
Gray et al., Ch 2

Week 3: Federalism II

- Monday 8 Sep Managing the Missouri River (Traditional Federalism)
Thorson, Ch 6
- Wednesday 10 Sep Managing the Missouri River (New Federalism)
Thorson, Ch 7
- Friday 12 Sep How Does Missouri Manage the River Today?
No Readings

Week 4: Interest Groups

- Monday 15 Sep Interest Groups in the States
Gray et al., Ch 4
- Wednesday 17 Sep Interest Groups and Initiatives
Gray et al., Ch 5
- Friday 19 Sep Are there Interest Groups in Missouri?
No Readings

Week 5: Elections I

- Monday 22 Sep Introduction to State Elections
Gray et al., Ch 3
- Wednesday 24 Sep *Bill's Run: A Political Journey in Rural Kansas*
Film
- Friday 26 Sep Elections in Missouri
No Readings

Week 6: Elections II

- Monday 29 Sep *Big Sky, Big Money*
Film
- Wednesday 1 Oct The Argument for Campaign Finance Reform in Missouri
Wogan 2014
- Friday 3 Oct The Argument Against Campaign Finance Reform in Missouri
No Readings

Week 7: Legislature I

- Monday 6 Oct Introduction to State Legislatures
Gray et al., Ch 6
- Wednesday 8 Oct The Missouri General Assembly (in the Past)
Gray et al., Ch 6
- Friday 10 Oct The Missouri General Assembly (in the Present)
No Readings

Week 8: Legislature II

- Monday 13 Oct Politicians in the States
Masket, Ch 2
- Wednesday 15 Oct The Smoke-Filled Room
Masket, Ch 4
- Friday 17 Oct Is There Middle Ground in Missouri?
No Readings

Week 9: Courts

- Monday 20 Oct Introduction to State Courts
Gray et al., Ch 8
Paper #1 Due
- Wednesday 22 Oct The Missouri Plan
Goldschmidt 1994
- Friday 24 Oct Do Retention Elections Really Work?
Tarr 2009

Week 10: Midterm Exam

- Monday 27 Oct Review
No Readings
- Wednesday 29 Oct Review (Optional)
No Readings
- Friday 31 Oct **Midterm Exam**
No Readings

Unit II: States in Action

Week 11: Education I

- Monday 3 Nov Introduction to State Education Policy
Gray et al., Ch 12
- Wednesday 5 Nov Pittsburgh Public Schools
No Readings
- Friday 7 Nov St. Louis Public Schools
Portz et al., Ch 6

Week 15: Health Care

- Monday 10 Nov Health and Welfare in the States
Gray et al., Ch 11
- Wednesday 12 Nov Affordable Care Act I
Haeder and Weimer 2013
- Friday 14 Nov Affordable Care Act II
No Readings

Week 13: Environmental Policy

- Monday 17 Nov Introduction to Environmental Policy in the States
Gray et al., Ch 15
- Wednesday 19 Nov Environmental Justice
Ringquist and Clark 1999
- Friday 21 Nov Environmental Justice in Missouri
No Readings

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

- Monday 24 Nov No Class
No Readings
- Wednesday 26 Nov No Class
No Readings
- Friday 28 Nov No Class
No Readings

Week 15: Drug Policy

Monday 1 Dec Alcohol
Griggs 2014
Wednesday 3 Dec Medical Marijuana
No Readings
Friday 5 Dec Legalizing Marijuana
No Readings

Week 16: Review

Monday 8 Dec Final Exam Review
No Readings
Wednesday 10 Dec Final Exam Review (Optional)
No Readings
Friday 12 Dec No Class
No Readings
Paper #2 Due