

PSCI 305 State and Local Government
Fall Semester 2013
MWF 10:00-10:50am
Room: Holmstedt Hall 0008

Professor: Dr. Bergbower
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Office Hours: M, W, F: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Blackboard Assistance Phone: 812-237-2910

Course Description

This course examines political institutions, actors, and issues within American state and local governments. Among other topics, our class will discuss federalism, political culture, state campaigns and elections, political parties, public policies, constitutional provisions, and state government branches (legislative, executive, and judicial). At some points we will closely look at the politics that are relevant to the state of Indiana, while at other times we will examine political matters in other states. Overall, this class introduces students to plethora of important concepts and theories relating to sub-national governments.

States are frequently described as “laboratories of democracy.” There is great variation in the policies and practices of state governments across America. In this sense, studying state government is a form of comparative politics. Public policy can be successful or a failure. Certain laws may be efficient while others may not. Overall, good public policy is an evolutionary process developed by local government leaders and potentially inspired from other states or municipalities.

Studying Indiana and Terre Haute politics increases our knowledge of government operations and public policies that directly affect our daily lives. On the other hand, studying state and local government outside of Indiana diversifies our knowledge of local politics.

Required Readings

Donovan, Todd, Daniel A. Smith, and Christopher Z. Mooney. 2011. *State & Local Politics: Institutions & Reform: The Essentials*. 2nd ed. Boston, MA. Wadsworth Publishing.

Large Ink Course Packet – Besides the assigned textbook, a number of alternative readings are also assigned. All of these required alternative readings are available for purchase in a course packet at Large Ink. The cost of this single packet is low. Large Ink is located at 635 Ohio St. in Terre Haute. Their phone number is 812-514-7636. They are open M-F, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Other Readings – If you are interested in state and local politics, and want to follow currents events more closely, the following websites are recommended.

- Stateline (<http://www.stateline.org/live/states>)
- State of Indiana “Newsroom” (<http://www.in.gov/newsroom.htm>)
- *Indianapolis Star* (<http://www.indystar.com>)

- *Tribune Star* (<http://tribstar.com>)
- *Indiana Statesman* (<http://www.indianastatesman.com>)
- *Evansville Courier & Press* (<http://www.courierpress.com/>)
- *Governing* (<http://www.governing.com>)
- National Conference of State Legislators (<http://www.ncsl.org>)
- The Council of State Governments (<http://www.csg.org>)

Library Reserves – The library contains an alternative edition of the assigned textbook at the circulation desk. This book is available to students for two hour checkouts. Content and descriptions vary in this alternative edition. As such, it remains the responsibility of the student to obtain a personal copy of the textbook to ensure the proper materials are being read.

Reaching the Foundational Studies Objectives

PSCI 305: State and Local Government meets the Foundational Studies’ Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement. Through the assigned readings, assignments, class discussions, and exams you will exercise the following learning objectives:

Foundational Studies	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Skill Applied Learning Requirements
Locate, critically read, & evaluate information to solve problems	Learn how individual choices and/or evolving social institutions affect human decision-making	Develop critical thinking skills
Critically evaluate the ideas of others	Predict individual & social outcomes based on Political Science methodologies	Develop information literacy skills
Apply knowledge and skills within & across the fundamental ways of knowing	Connect Political Science content & methodologies to contemporary social issues	Develop writing skills, broadly speaking
Demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultures within and across societies	Learn how Political Science informs and contributes to other disciplines	
Demonstrate the skills to place your current & local experience in a global, cultural & historical context		
Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical implications of decisions and actions		
Express yourselves effectively, professionally & persuasively both orally and in writing		
Demonstrate the skills for effective citizenship and stewardship.		

Course Requirements

Grades are based on the performances of three Exams, a Bill Review, an Identification Quiz, a City Council report, Discussion Blog Posts, Attendance, and Class Participation.

Exams – Exams are based on materials addressed in the lectures, class discussions, and the assigned readings. None of the exams are comprehensive. Exams are composed of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you will be required to write a research paper of my choosing in place of the exam and turn it in within 12 days after the exam was given. Failure to fulfill these guidelines results in a zero for that exam.

Identification Quiz – On September 4 a quiz will be given covering Indiana’s state officials, Terre Haute’s federal representatives, as well as Terre Haute’s local government officials. It is important for citizens to be familiar with their elected leaders. Since this class focuses on state and local government, it is relevant for everyone in the class to know who the primary political actors are in our state and community. Review for this quiz takes place on August 23 and August 26.

Bill Review – Students are required to write a bill review over a piece of legislation proposed in the Indiana General Assembly. This bill review is due November 11. A list of available Indiana bills is given to you on Blackboard and you must select one from the list. Detailed instructions on the bill review, as well as a bill review example and template can be found within the “Bill Review” folder on Blackboard. Good bill reviews (1) briefly summarizes the bill, (2) lists noteworthy proponents and opponents to the bill, (3) assesses whether there are any outstanding questions to resolve (i.e. what is missing from the bill) and (4) give final considerations and recommendations for the bill. The bill review is worth 50 points. Students should follow the template provided on Blackboard. The bill review should be single spaced, and around 1.25 pages in length. A hard copy of the bill review should be placed in the Professor’s departmental mailbox by November 11 (4:00pm deadline). My departmental mailbox is located in Holmstedt Hall, Room 303. Any bill review submitted late will receive a letter grade deduction for each day it is late.

City Council Report – Students are required to attend one Terre Haute City Council Meeting (or city where you reside) this semester. The Council meetings are heard in the Courtroom within City Hall. When attending the City Council meeting a copy of the council’s agenda will be passed out to the audience. Take one of these, keep it, and turn it in with your report. After attending the City Council meeting, a one page single-spaced report should be composed. This report should (1) outline the business attended to during the meeting, (2) provide personal commentary to the topics addressed, and (3) have a copy of the council’s agenda attached.

Certain questions you may ask yourself when writing this report are:

- (1) Were any controversial issues addressed during the meeting?
- (2) Why were these issues controversial?
- (3) Were there contentious debates presented?
- (4) Why were the debates contentious?
- (5) Were there any points not raised during the meeting that should have been addressed?

(6) If there were such missing points, why do you think that they should have been addressed?

A hard copy of the City Council Report (and a copy of the agenda) should be placed in the Professor's departmental mailbox by November 20 (4:00 pm deadline). My departmental mailbox is located in Holmstedt Hall, Room 303. Reports will be accepted any time prior to the November 20 deadline. Any City Council Report submitted late will receive a letter grade deduction for each day it is late. City Council meeting dates for Terre Haute can be found on Blackboard. Students must turn in their City Council Report within one week of the meeting they attended. Thus, students who attend a meeting on October 10, for example, must turn in their City Council Report by October 17 (no exceptions).

Discussion Blogs – Throughout the semester Discussion Blog questions will be posted on Blackboard and students need to respond to these posts. Your ability to actively post on the Blackboard Discussion Blog intelligently and insightfully based on the lectures, the assigned text, and outside media coverage will give you credit for this requirement. Students are expected to post at least once for each discussion question started by the Professor. Students should take these Discussion Blog questions as a writing component to the course. As such, all communication in the Discussion Blog must use proper grammar and sentence structure. Students must be respectful to all points of views presented in the Discussion Blog. Failure to oblige to these guidelines will result in a zero grade for that Discussion Blog. Blog posts are worth 10 points each.

Class Participation – It is essential for students to participate in the course discussion and read the assigned text every week. Your ability to actively contribute in the class discussion based on intelligent and insightful comments relating to the lectures, the assigned text, and outside media coverage will give you credit for participating in class for that week. Students must be respectful to all points of views presented in class. Throughout the semester short quizzes will be given. These quizzes are to ensure students are up to date on the assigned reading materials. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each “Class Discussion” date and will contribute to your overall participation grade. Class Discussion dates are clearly marked on the Course Schedule. For every class period it is in the best interest of the students to bring the assigned readings with them the day it is assigned.

Overall, Class Participation points are a consideration of 3 factors: (1) contributions to class discussion, (2) performance on Class Discussion quizzes, and (3) classroom behavior.

Students who use their phones during class can expect a zero for Class Participation. Students who use their laptops or tablets during class can expect a zero for Class Participation.

As stated above, participating in class is vital for your success in the course. I expect students to read assigned materials and show up for class prepared to contribute. Participation grades will be accumulated throughout the semester, so it is important to be involved in class every week.

Attendance – Attending class is important and it is worth 70 points in class. At the beginning of the course each student is given these 70 points. Students should make a full-faith effort to attend every class session. I do not observe excused absences (except for religious holidays deemed appropriate by the University). Rather, students are allowed 3 “free” absences for the semester. Any absences beyond 3 will result in a 10 point reduction in your Attendance grade. You can avoid this deduction by turning in a one full page, single-space analysis of the topic

discussed in class for the day you missed. This will be allowed for a maximum of 4 absences. These make-up papers should be turned in within 2 weeks of the day missed. Being late for class will be noted by the Professor and is subject to an absence. Points will be deducted from your Attendance grade if you are late to class. Failure to fulfill the specific requirements underlined in this section is subject to no points being made-up.

Students who use their phones, tablets, or laptops during class can expect an automatic deduction on their Attendance grade as well. These points cannot be “made up” with summary papers like absences.

Grading

Identification Quiz	50 points
Bill Review	50 points
City Council Report	50 points
Discussion Blogs	50 points (5 x 10 points)
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3 (Final)	100 points
Attendance	70 points
<u>Participation</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	620 points

Grading Scale (Percentages)

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Re-Grade Policy

Students who believe their work has graded unjustly may submit a grade appeal. Grade appeals should be around 0.25 to a 0.5 page in length and specifically address why the student’s work was evaluated erroneously. Grade appeals should be turned in within 6 days after the work was returned to the student. Upon further consideration, changes based on appeals may increase or decrease your grade.

Students may discuss their exam answers with the Professor 24 hours after the exam has been handed back (and no sooner).

Student Conduct

Student/Instructor Behavior - Students should behave in a professional and courteous manner not only to the Professor but to fellow students as well. I will make every effort to give you the utmost respect, I expect the same in return. In political science courses disagreements among students or even with the Professor are bound to occur. But, disagreements should never extend to a student feeling uncomfortable. Any student behaving in a manner that is disruptive or

inappropriate may be removed, and potentially sanctioned as outlined in the University Student Conduct Code.

Academic Freedom: "Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject."

The preceding quote comes from the American Association of University Professors' statement on academic freedom. Though the entire statement speaks to many issues, it is this portion on the conduct of the course that is most relevant. For the purpose of this course this means that faculty have the right to conduct their class in a fashion they deem appropriate as long as the material presented meets the learning objectives laid out by the entire faculty.

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm>

Contacting the Professor - Feel free to contact me regarding anything relevant to the class. The best way to reach me is via email (matthew.bergbower@indstate.edu). I check my email multiple times a day and will make every attempt to get back to you as soon as possible. Please clearly identify yourself as well as the class you are in when emailing the Professor (until I have memorized your name). Proper communication etiquette and grammar should also be used.

Academic Misconduct – Any student engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean. Furthermore, students could be removed from the class and receive an F in the course. The University's Code of Student Conduct specifies the penalties for plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of misconduct. If you have any questions on what constitutes academic misconduct, please see the University's Office of Student Conduct and Integrity within the Hulman Memorial Student Union or myself for assistance.

Useful websites: <http://www.indstate.edu/sci/>
<http://www.indstate.edu/sci/docs/2012-StudentGuide-AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

No Laptop/Phone/Tablet Policy – Laptop and Tablet Usage Forbidden:

While the University has chosen to require students to have laptops, the University also recognizes and respects the right of faculty to conduct their classes as they deem appropriate. In this course, no laptop, cell phone, or tablet may be used in class. Failure to comply with this directive is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

Unless a medical condition deems it necessary for you to use certain computer technology in class, students should not access their laptops, tablets, cellphones, or smartphones anytime during class. Even if your intentions are to use the laptop for taking notes, too many abuses occur. Students will receive a 10 point deduction to their Class Participation grade per each day they use a laptop, cell phone, or tablet during class. If you have an electronic copy of the textbook, to use on an e-reader for example, you must inform the Professor of this fact at the beginning of the semester.

Disabilities

Every effort will be made by the University and the Professor to have students with disabilities succeed in the classroom. If you are a student with a disability, you should contact me immediately so that arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs. For more

information you can contact Student Academic Services Center at 237-2300 or visit <http://www.indstate.edu/sasc/programs/dss/index.htm>.

University statement on Student Rights with Disabilities: “Indiana State University seeks to provide effective services and accommodation for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation because of a documented disability, you are required to register with Disability Support Services at the beginning of the semester. Contact the Director of Student Support Services. The telephone number is 237-2301 and the office is located in Gillum Hall, Room 202A. The Director will ensure that you receive all the additional help that Indiana State offers. If you will require assistance during an emergency evacuation, notify your instructor immediately. Look for evacuation procedures posted in your classrooms.”

Writing Center

The ISU Writing Center provides free writing consultations to all students on an appointment or walk-in basis. The Center’s consultants will assist you with any piece of writing, at any stage of the writing process. For example, consultants can help you learn to identify paper topics and generate ideas for them, plan and organize drafts, and rewrite and edit your papers. The Center’s purpose is not to correct or proofread final drafts for you, but to help you learn strategies that good writers use during the process of writing. You may visit the Center for assistance with any writing project for this class.

The Center is located at ISU’s Cunningham Memorial Library, Main Floor (237-2989). Current hours of operation can be found at the website: <http://isu.indstate.edu/writing/hours.html>.

Course Schedule

***Subject to change, based on the circumstances that dictate the class.

- Introduction to State Government and Federalism

08/21	Introduction to the Course Overview of the Syllabus
08/23	Knowing our Local Officials? Introduction to State Government Reading: <i>Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 1</i>
08/26	Knowing our Local Officials? (cont.)
08/28	No Class – Professor at APSA Conference Discussion Blog #1 due (11:59pm)
08/30	No Class – Professor at APSA Conference Discussion Blog #2 due (11:59pm)
09/02	No Class – Labor Day
09/04	Identification Quiz

- 09/06 Introduction to State Government (cont.)
Reading: *W.P. Maxam – Indiana Government Chapters 1-3*
- 09/09 Introduction to State Government (cont.) – Class Discussion
Reading: *Hedge – “The Changing Position of State Government: The Concept of Resurgence”*
Reading: *Hedge – “Governance and the Changing American States”*
- 09/11 Federalism
Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 2*
- 09/13 Federalism (cont.)
- 09/16 Federalism – Class Discussion
Reading: *K. Esterling. “Does the Federal Government Learn from the States?”*
- 09/18 Federalism (cont.)
- 09/20 No Class
Discussion Blog #3 due (11:59pm)
- 09/23 Federalism: a Case Study – Class Discussion
Reading: *U.S. Supreme Court Bush v. Gore excerpts*
- 09/25 Federalism – Class Discussion
Reading: *E. Chemerinsky. “Bush v. Gore and Federalism.”*
- 09/27 Federalism – Bush v. Gore Case Study (cont.)
- 09/30 Review for Exam
- 10/02 **Exam #1**
- *Political Behavior, Campaigns, and State Elections*
- 10/04 No Class
Discussion Blog #4 due (11:59pm)
- 10/07 Introduction to Participation, Elections, & Political Attitudes
Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 3*
- 10/09 Introduction to Participation, Elections, & Political Attitudes (cont.)
- 10/11 State Elections and Candidate Behavior – Class Discussion
Reading: *M. Stencel – “Bare-Knuckle Gentility.”*
- 10/14 State Elections and Candidate Behavior (cont.) – Class Discussion
Reading: *D. Beiler – “The Body Politic Registers a Protest”*
- 10/16 State Elections (cont.)
- 10/18 Introduction to Political Parties and Interest Groups

- Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 5*
- 10/21 Introduction to Political Parties and Interest Groups (cont.) – Class Discussion
 Reading: *U.S. Supreme Court Majority Opinion – Crawford v. Marion County Election Board (by Justice Stevens)*
 Reading: *U.S. Supreme Court Dissenting Opinion – Crawford v. Marion County Election Board (by Justice Breyer)*
- 10/23 Political Behavior – Class Discussion
 Reading: *N. Lovrich, B. Daynes, and L. Ginger – “Public Policy and the Effects of Historical-Cultural Phenomena”*
- 10/25 Political Behavior (cont.)
- 10/28 Political Behavior: Red State vs. Blue States – Class Discussion
 Reading: *T. Frank – “What’s the Matter with America?”*
- 10/30 Review for Exam #2
- 11/01 **Exam #2**
- Legislatures, Governors, and State Courts
- 11/04 State of Indiana General Assembly
 How to Write a Successful Bill Review
- 11/06 State Legislatures
 Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 6*
- 11/08 No Class
Discussion Blog #5 due
 Reading: *R. Wright – “My First Campaign”*
 Reading: *R. Wright – “Life in the Legislature”*
- 11/11 State Legislatures (cont.)
Bill Review due
- 11/13 Governors
 Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 7*
- 11/15 Governors (cont.) – Class Discussion
 Reading: *A. Rosenthal – “Job of Governor”*
- 11/18 Governors (cont.)
- 11/20 Governors (cont.) – Class Discussion
 Reading: *A. Greenblatt – “Private Instigator”*
City Council Report Due
- 11/22 State Courts
 Reading: *Donovan, Smith, and Mooney – Chapter 8*

- 11/25- No Class – Thanksgiving Break
11/29
- 12/02 State Courts – Class Discussion
Reading: *State of Indiana Supreme Court Majority Opinion – Burke v. Bennett.*
- 12/04 Consequences of *Burke v. Bennett* – Class Discussion
Reading: *S.S. Kennedy & D. Malatesta – “A Very Tangled Web: Public and Private Redux.”*
- 12/06 *Burke v. Bennett* (cont.).
Review for Final Exam
- 12/09 **Exam #3: Final Exam**
10:00 am start time

Key Dates

- 08/28: Discussion Blog #1 due
08/30: Discussion Blog #2 due
09/04: Identification Quiz
09/20: Discussion Blog #3 due
10/02: Exam #1
10/04: Discussion Blog #4 due
11/01: Exam #2
11/08: Discussion Blog #5 due
11/11: Bill Review
11/20: City Council Report
12/09: Exam #3, Final Exam

Important Links on Blackboard

Course Syllabus – This folder contains the course syllabus. If you ever lose your syllabus, you may print off another copy here.

Course Lectures – Some PowerPoint slides used in class can be downloaded in this folder.

Bill Review – This folder contains information needed to complete the Bill Review assignment. Specifically, this folder contains (1) a bill review template, (2) an example of a bill review, and (3) a list of proposed bills in the State of Indiana General Assembly to choose from.

City Council – This folder contains the schedule for Terre Haute City Council meetings.

Grade Center – All grades are posted on Blackboard for students to view.

Discussion Blog – The online class discussion on questions posed by the Professor can be found on this Blackboard tab.