

**INTERORGANIZATION RELATIONS**  
**POLS 4202/5202**

As taught Spring 2001  
Dr. Caress

**COURSE OUTLINE**

The American government is an intricate network of governmental agencies, offices, and bureaus that operate at different levels of government. Virtually all government policy requires a coordinated effort by this network. This course examines and analyzes the structure and dynamics of this interorganizational network.

Initially, this course focuses on the historical development of the American federal system. This section of the course will illustrate how different aspects of federalism can influence what the government does and how it does it. This is followed by an in depth examination of fiscal federalism which includes a review of the various methods for transferring funds within the federal system. Also included in this section of the course is a detailed examination of the nature of national/state, national/local, and state/local relations.

The interorganizational network involves far more than government agencies at different levels of government. It also includes non-profit organizations, interest groups, and other public and private institutions that are involved in the creation, administration, and implementation of public programs and policies. The second section of this course will examine the role that these institutions play in the formulation, adoption, and implementation of government policy and programs.

The final section of this course will focus on how the interorganizational network is involved in the creation of government policy on environment issues. Actual government programs will be scrutinized to illustrate how all government policy is the product of the dynamic and complex intergovernmental network.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

The nature of public, private and nonprofit organizations and how they interrelate.

The nature of the American federal system.

Changes in the federal system and the bearing of these changes on state and local government and the private and nonprofit sectors.

How policy is formed and implemented in a federal system

How policy is financed in a federal system.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

*THE POLITICS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS* - Nice

*AMERICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS* - O'Toole

*ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERALISM* - Anderson & Hill

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be three midterms and a final exam. All four exams will be essay and short answer. In addition a research project and one oral presentation on a related topic are also required. The research project (10-12 typed pages) and the oral presentation will be based on assignments made by the professor. The format will be discussed later in the course..

The midterms are each worth 20% of the total grade. The final is worth 25% and the project is worth 10%. The remaining 5% is based on class participation. Regular class attendance is expect.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

The professor will be available for consultation on the research paper and other related matters during regularly scheduled office hours that will be given in class.

## **TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Week 1 - Introduction - O'Toole Pages 1 - 32

Week 2 - American Federalism - Nice & Fredrickson Chaps. 1 & 2

Week 3 - Fiscal Federalism - Nice & Frederickson Chap. 3, O'Toole Pages 208-241

Week 4- National/ State & National/Local Relations - Nice & Fredrickson Chaps. 5, 4, 7

### **First Midterm Exam -**

Week 5. - State/Local Relations - Nice & Frederickson Chaps. 6 & 8

Week 6. - Non-Profit Organizations & Interest Groups - O'Toole Pages 103-108

Week 7. - Interorganizational Decision-Making - Nice & Frederickson Chap. 9

Week 8. - Impact on Policy Implementation and Administration O'Toole Pages 273-278,

### **Second Midterm -**

Week 9. - Impact on Implementation (con't) - O'Toole Pages 333-337

Week 10. - Case Example - Case Studies - Anderson & Hill - Intro.

Week 11 - Case Example - Anderson & Hill - Chaps. 1

**Third Midterm Exam -**

Week 12 - Case Example - Anderson & Hill - Chaps. 5

Week 13 - Case Example - Anderson & Hill - Chaps. 6

Week 14 - Case Example - Anderson & Hill - Chaps. 9

Week 15 - Overview and Review - O'Toole - Pages 403-407

**Project Due -**

**FINAL EXAM**