

STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS & ADMINISTRATION
POLS 4211/5211

Fall 2004
Dr. Caress

COURSE OUTLINE: This course provides an examination of the dynamics of government at the state and local levels. Initially, this course looks at the American federal system. Next it examines the structure and functions of state and local government. While many of the concepts considered in class will be universally applicable to all states and localities, special attention will be paid to Georgia state government and the local politics of Carroll and Douglas counties. Next, the role of state and local government in the delivery of public services will be studied. Finally, the previous information will be integrated into a broad overview that includes an analysis of the politics found at the state and local levels.

The course is divided into three separate but related sections. The first section examines in depth the fundamental operations of state and local government. This provides a basic foundation for the two subsequent sections. The second section examines in detail state and local government involvement in creating and delivering public services. The final section examines the political environment that surrounds government at these levels.

This course provides opportunities for both academic and experiential learning, and is intended to give students an in depth understanding of government at the levels that are the closest to the American public.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will demonstrate that they have developed: An understanding of the basic values of American civic culture, and of the institutional, political, and legal processes of the American states and localities, with particular emphasis on Georgia. They will also master an understanding of the interrelationship of the American states and localities with one another and with the national government. In addition students will exhibit an understanding of the major public policy of the states and the role of states in their implementation. Finally, students will display the ability to communicate their knowledge in writing. All of these outcomes will be gauged by performance on the exams, written assignments, and class participation. For graduate students an additional focus on research will be expected.

TEXTS:

POLITICS AND POLICY IN AMERICAN STATES AND COMMUNITIES -Dresang & Gosling
POLITICS IN GEORGIA - Fleischmann & Pierannunzi

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be two midterm exams and a final. All exams are multiple choice. The midterms are each worth 30% of the total grade. The final is worth 35%.

In addition to the three exams a class project/research paper is also required. The project will be a 5 to 7 typed paged paper based on a topic given in class. The exams will be worth 25% each and the project will be worth 20% of the total grade. For graduate students there is an additional project required. Their paper will need to be 10-12 pages in length and cover additional topics.

For all students the remaining 5% of the total class grade is based on class participation. Class participation includes continuous class attendance, which is expected of all students.

CONSULTATION AND OFFICE HOURS: The professor's office is room 121 in the Pafford Social Science building and his phone extension is 4569. The professor will be also available by appointment. The professor must be informed in advance of any missed exam or assignment.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE - POLS 4211/5211

Fall 2004

- Week 1. Dresang Chap. 1
- Week 2. Dresang Chap. 2 & 3
Fleischmann Chap. 1
- Week 3. Dresang Chap. 6
Fleischmann Chap. 2
- Week 4. Dresang Chap. 7 & 8
Fleischmann Chap. 4 & 5

First Midterm Exam - September 16th

- Week 5. Dresang Chap. 4
Fleischmann Chap. 3
- Week 6. Dresang Chap. 9
Fleischmann Chap. 7
- Week 7. Dresang Chap. 10
Fleischmann Chap. 6
- Week 8. Dresang Chap. 12
- Week 9. Dresang Chap. 13
Fleischmann Chap. 8

Second Midterm Exam - October 21st

- Week 10. Dresang Chap. 11
Fleischmann Chap. 9
- Week 11. Dresang Chaps. 5
- Week 12. Dresang Chap. 17

Class Project due - November 18th

- Week 13. Fleischmann Chap. 10
Dresang Chaps. 18
- Week 14. Dresang Chaps. 14 & 15
- Week 15. Dresang Chaps. 16 & 19

FINAL EXAM - December 14th, 11:00AM