Political Science W3208: State Politics
Spring 2013
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:10 – 11:25 am
C03 School of Social Work

Professor Justin Phillips
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733 International Affairs Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4 pm
& by appointment

Course Requirements: In addition to regularly attending class, students are required to complete the following:

Midterm: The midterm exam will be given in class on Thursday, March 7th. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. Questions on the midterm will be drawn in equal parts from the lecture and reading materials. The midterm will count as 35% of the course grade.

Research paper: Each student must complete a 10 to 15 page research paper. I will provide a list of paper topics from which you may choose or you may supply a topic of your own (providing that this topic is pre-approved by either myself or a TA). Students are required to turn in a one-page proposal for their paper on Thursday, March 14th. This summary should include a thesis statement, outline of the paper, and preliminary list of sources. The final paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, May 2nd. The paper proposal will count as 5% of the overall grade for the class and the final paper will count as 25%. I strongly encourage students to use Strunk and White’s Elements of Style as a guide for their writing.

Final: The final exam will be given on the day and time assigned by the University’s final exam schedule. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. Questions on the final will be drawn in equal parts from the lecture and reading materials. The final exam will count as 35% of the overall grade for the class.

Note: Make-up examinations are given only for University-approved absences.

Teaching assistants: There will be no discussion sections in this course. However, we have two teaching assistants who will be available to answer your questions. They will hold office hours prior to exams and prior to the due dates for all written assignments.

Alissa Stollwerk afs2129@columbia.edu

Patricia Kirkland pak2128@columbia.edu
Readings

Course Packet: (available at the Village Copier on the corner of Amsterdam & 118th)

Books:


CourseWorks: Many of the readings for this course will only be available online through Courseworks ([https://courseworks.columbia.edu/](https://courseworks.columbia.edu/)). These readings are posted under “Class Files.”

**COURSE OUTLINE**

I. AMERICAN FEDERALISM

January 22nd: Overview (no assignments)

January 24th: Why Federalism?

1. The Federalist Papers, #6, 9, 15, 32, 33, 39, 44, 45, 46, 51, 78 (CourseWorks)


January 29th: The State-Federal Relationship I


January 31st: The State-Federal Relationship II


February 5th: Interstate Relations I: Competition


February 7th: Interstate Relations II: Cooperation


February 12th: State-Local Relations


February 14th: States and Native Americans: Conflicting Dependent Sovereigns


II. STATE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

February 19th: The Creation and Evolution of State Constitutions


February 21st: State Legislatures: Institutions & Procedures I


February 26th: State Legislatures: Institutions & Procedures II


February 28th: The Governorship


March 5th: Executive-Legislative Bargaining: Who Wins and Why?


March 7th: Midterm

March 12th: The State Judiciary


III. ELECTIONS & PARTICIPATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

March 14th: State Elections


(2) Paper Proposal Due
March 19th: Spring break (no class)

March 21st: Spring break (no class)

March 26th: Redistricting


March 28th: Direct Democracy I


April 2nd: Direct Democracy II


April 4th: State Political Parties


April 9th: Public Opinion


April 11th: No Lecture (Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association)

**IV. PUBLIC POLICY IN THE STATES**

April 16th: Budgeting
(1) *States Continue to Feel Recession’s Impact*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CourseWorks)

(2) *Reducing Federal Deficits Without a Significant Revenue Increase Would Shift Substantial Costs to States*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CourseWorks)


April 18th: Welfare & Health Policy


April 23rd: Education


April 25th: Same-Sex Marriage & Gay Rights

(1) *Goodridge v. Dep’t of Public Health* (Mass. 2003). Only read the majority opinion – first 18 pages of the document. (CourseWorks)


April 30th: Environmental Policy


May 2nd: Do State Governments Have Foreign Policies?


(3) **Research Papers Due**