

# STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Political Science 202

Spring 2005/2006  
Section 02 1:30 - 2:45 TT

Dr. William K. Hall  
270 Bradley Hall

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of how political decisions are made by the state and local governments, in practice as well as in theory. This course has as its main objective to help you understand the activities and business of these governments. Upon completion of this course, you should: (1) have gained a more thorough understanding of some of the basic elements, structures, principles, and processes of the myriad state and local political systems; (2) emerge with a greater understanding and appreciation for state and local governments; and (3) be better prepared to be a participant in state and local politics.

State and local governments affect our lives in more ways than any other levels of government. And yet, these two levels are the least understood, least appreciated and least respected levels of government.

### READINGS FOR THE COURSE

Smith, Kevin B., Alan Greenblatt, and John Buntin, Governing States and Localities, 2004.

### CLASSROOM METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

This class will be conducted through a combination of lecture, class discussion and student participation and involvement. Current political events--including happenings in Illinois government/politics, happenings in Peoria area government/politics, and the 2006 Illinois primary election (in March)--will be frequent topics of discussion to help illustrate key concepts and themes.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

**You are expected to attend ALL class sessions.** Students who miss four (4) or more class sessions will receive zero points for class participation.

## GRADES

Your overall grade will be weighted as follows:

Exam I	90 points
Exam II	90 points
Exam III	100 points
Individual Projects	140 points
Class participation	30 points

Course grades will be determined as follows:

A -- 450 - 405 points
B -- 404 - 360 points
C -- 359 - 315 points
D -- 314 - 270 points
F -- Fewer than 270 points

## EXAMS

There will be three in-class exams:

The first exam will feature three pairs of essay questions. This exam (over Sections I - III) will be given on Thursday, February 23.

The second exam will feature three pairs of essay questions. This exam (over Section IV) will be given on Thursday, April 6.

The third exam will feature short answer questions and two pairs of essay questions. The third exam (over Sections V and VI) will be given during Final Exam Week: Friday, May 5 at 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Letter grades for each of the three exams will be assigned on the basis of total points scored on each exam as follows:

- A -- 90% - 100%
- B -- 80% - 89%
- C -- 70% - 79%
- D -- 60% - 69%
- F -- 0% - 59%

### **MAKE-UP EXAMS**

A make-up exam will be given only under the most extraordinary circumstances, and then only for a legitimate, excused absence. Students who must unavoidably be absent on an exam day because of participation in official intercollegiate events (e.g., a member of the nationally-ranked BU coed varsity left-legged lacrosse team) should see the instructor before the regularly scheduled exam is given in order to discuss a make-up.

In case of illness on an exam day, documented proof of the alleged affliction will likely be required before I will consider allowing you to take a make-up exam. A make-up exam is given at the instructor's discretion.

### **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES**

Each student will be responsible for a variety of individual projects/activities. For example, students might be asked to research the constitution of another state on the internet and make comparisons of specific provisions of that constitution to the present Illinois Constitution. Or, students might be asked to watch Governor Blagojevich's State of the State address and write a news analysis of that speech.

Most of the projects/activities will be completed out of class. One or two of our projects/activities will be in-class assignments. Details on individual projects/activities will be provided with as much advanced warning as feasible.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

I have four expectations of each student for class participation:

- (1) That you read the assigned readings (Smith/Greenblatt/Buntin); and/or class handouts) before coming to class each day. You should come to class prepared to discuss the day's topic(s), raise questions and make comments about the readings, etc.; and
- (2) That you will be aware of and informed about current political events and activities, especially the goings-on in Illinois and Peoria-area politics; and
- (3) That you will be prepared to make a meaningful contribution to class discussion; and
- (4) That you will not only be prepared to make a meaningful contribution to class discussion, but that you will make a meaningful contribution.

## **EXTRA-CREDIT WORK**

There is no such thing as extra-credit work in this course.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students are expected to maintain complete academic integrity. Failure to do so will result in a zero (0) for the assignment/exam. Cheating and plagiarism have no place in an academic setting. While I encourage students to discuss the material covered in class among themselves, all work submitted for assignments and exams must be each student=s own!

## **THE CLASH OF IDEAS**

We will be dealing with an array of issues on which many individuals have strong opinions. All viewpoints are welcome in this class so long as they are expressed in thoughtful, courteous and tolerant ways.

## **CELLPHONE-FREE ZONE**

As a courtesy to others in this class, please shut your cellphone OFF when coming into our class. Although many of you may regard this cruel and unusual punishment, please plan to leave your cellphone off until you are out of our classroom. Should your cellphone Aring@ during our class, not only would it be bad karma, it will very likely inflict damage on your grade in this course....

## **INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Although you will see me twice a week in the classroom, it is possible you will want to see me in my office. Anytime I am in my office, you are welcome. I make every effort to be available to my students, especially at the scheduled office hours listed below:

Monday	9:15 - 10:45, 2:00 - 3:30
Tuesday	9:15 - 11:45, 3:00 - 3:30
Wednesday	9:15 - 10:45, 2:00 - 3:30
Thursday	9:15 - 11:45, 3:00 - 3:30
Friday	9:15 - 10:45

Should you need to reach me by phone, my office phone is: 677-2495. If I am not available when you call, you may leave a message for me on my AUDIX or you can reach the departmental administrative assistant at 677-2502 and leave a message with her. I can also be reached by email at: [hall@bradley.edu](mailto:hall@bradley.edu)

# **COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**

## **I. INTRODUCTION TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **January 19 -- What State and Local Government is All About: A Nation of State and Local Governments**

Readings: Smith, Greenblatt and Buntin (SGB), Chapter #1 (pp. 2-23)

## **II. THE ENVIRONMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **A. January 24 and 26 -- The Environment of Intergovernmental Relations**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #2 (pp. 24-59)

### **B. January 26, 31, February 2 and 7 -- The Constitutional Framework: State Constitutions**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #3 (pp. 60-91)

## **III. THE PEOPLE AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS**

### **A. February 9 and 14 -- Framework for Citizen Participation**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #4 (pp. 92-129)

### **B. February 16 and 21 -- Political Parties and Interest Groups**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #5 (pp. 130-168)

**\*\*\*\*\* EXAM I (over Sections I - III) on Thursday, February 23 \*\*\*\*\***

## **IV. INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES AND DYNAMICS OF STATE GOVERNMENT**

### **A. February 28, March 2, 7 and 9 -- The Legislature and the Legislative Process**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #6 (pp. 170-211)

**\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK--No Class on March 14 and 16 \*\*\*\*\***

**B. March 21, 23 and 28 -- The Governor and the Executive Branch**

Readings: SGB, Chapters #7 and #9 (pp. 212-253, 300-330)

**C. March 30 and April 4 -- The Judiciary**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #8 (pp. 254-299)

**\*\*\*\*\* EXAM II (over Section IV) on Thursday, April 6 \*\*\*\*\***

**V. FINANCING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**April 11 -- State and Local Fiscal Policy**

Readings: SGB, Chapter # 11 (pp. 364-393)

**VI. INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES AND DYNAMICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**A. April 13, 18 and 20 -- Local Governments: Structure, Process  
and Leadership**

Readings: SGB, Chapter #10 (pp. 332-362)

**B. April 25, 27 and May 2 -- Politics in Peoria**

Readings: Class Handout

**\*\*\*\*\* EXAM III on Friday, May 5 at 12:00-1:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\*  
(over Sections V and VI)**