

**FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**LOCATOR INFORMATION:**

**COURSE:** POLI-320 -01 (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2002

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**INSTRUCTOR:** NGOZI CALEB KAMALU, Ph.D., PROFESSOR

**MEETING PERIOD:** MWF 10:00 AM- **10:50** AM

**FORUM:** JKSA 208

**TELEPHONE:** (910) 672-1367

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**CONFERENCE HOURS:**

Monday: 12:00 Noon- 2:00 PM

Wednesday: 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM ; 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Friday: 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This syllabus, which has been prepared for use in POLI-320 focuses on the analyses of the legal and political aspects of government institutions, politics and functions in sub-national political arenas. Also, it centers on the issues and problems involved in the relationships among national, state and local governments. Further analyses cover the urban government and political systems, metropolitan areas and neighborhood centers.

Moreover, this course explores the non-federal aspects of government in the United States.

Its focus is more centered on the members and the problem- solving processes and mechanisms that make the management and resolutions of political conflicts in local and state jurisdictions possible. Although the course emphasizes primarily the political forces that shape or determine the outcome of public policy in non-federal levels of government, it nonetheless treats the states and their subdivisions as fascinating political laboratories that allow for comparisons among different levels of governmental systems.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** Thomas R. Dye, POLITICS IN STATES AND COMMUNITIES. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000 - 10th Edition)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Comprehend the role of state and local governments in the political life of the United States.
2. Understand the nature, sources and scope of politics (conflict / game of power) over public policy in American States and Communities, and the structures and processes designed to manage those conflicts.
3. Know the basis on which to compare disparate political institutions, structure and behaviors.
4. Show an ability to integrate or incorporate the results of political science research into a comprehensive analysis of the politics of states and communities.
5. Demonstrate capability in tracing the history of the relations among federal, state and local governments.
6. Be able to assess the role of regulatory agencies in intergovernmental relations.
7. Comprehend how access to revenues and powers of taxation have either shaped or altered the behavior and relationships of various levels of government.
8. Be able to conduct informed research in intergovernmental relations and also demonstrate competence in interpreting, documenting and presenting the findings in a scholarly manner.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Three major evaluations are required in this course. They are

- (1) Midterm examination = 33.33 %
- (2) Post Midterm examination = 33.33
- (3) Project Paper = 25

The examination materials will reflect class work, but with relevant application to current political processes and development. There will be prior announcement of examinations in terms of date, style, format and number of chapters etc., which it will cover. It is exclusively an essay. In the event more than three evaluations take place, the instructor reserves the right to drop the lowest grade for students who have satisfied all the four requirements. A student who has completed at least three tests/ evaluations will be given a grade if he/she misses the fourth, with respect to his/her overall score.

A research paper of 10 typewritten double-spaced pages is expected ( if a research paper is required). The scope, topic and focus of the research paper must be approved by the instructor. Despite showing analytical competence, the research papers must include footnotes/ endnotes, and complete bibliography. The grading standards will strongly be based on good organization of work, fact, clarity of ideas and concepts, accuracy of spellings and good grammar.

## **CHEATING/ PLAGIARISM**

Students are strongly warned against practices of PLAGIARISM.

This is because the basic principle of " academic integrity " permeates this class, guides all its activities and will therefore not be compromised under any circumstances. In order to restore credibility, value and nobility to the academic profession, these rules must be adhered to strictly. Thus, the goals stated above can only be achieved when we hold educational achievement at high esteem. Relying on the definition of WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, Plagiarism is an act intended to commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or production derived from an existing source. " Thus, in applying this scenario to our situation, it encompasses cheating and stealing, " passing off materials and ideas in cases pertaining to assignments, examinations, term papers etc., without crediting the sources where applicable. The circumstances discussed above, therefore, give impetus to the need for intellectual honesty. Any student who grossly violates these provisions will automatically receive an "F" (failure) grade in the course.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Class participation is an integral part of learning because not only does it make students active participants, but, they bring individual cases, problems and possible solutions to class, which not only enrich the discussion, but also bring personal touch, sensitivity and reality to the issue under discussion. Class participation will include comments, questions, and criticisms and possible suggestions, which contribute to the understanding of the subject matter. Such efforts on the part of students will not escape notice and recognition.

## **ADDITIONAL READING**

Additional suggested readings may be recommended by the instructor at the end of each class session. The reading materials may be drawn from sources which include but not limited to books, articles and selected case studies to supplement class readings.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

The distribution of scores based on a four-point scale is as follows:

GRADE A = 92 - 100

B = 83 - 91

C = 73 - 82

D = 64-72

F = 63 - 0

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE AND MAKE UP**

Consensus opinion holds that regular and punctual class attendance is the engine of scholarship. However, regular class attendance remains the essential obligation of the student. Every student is

expected to attend classes regularly and punctually. Excused or un-excused absence does not relieve any student of his or her academic requirements or obligations. Class attendance roll call will be taken at the end of every class. It is the responsibility of the student to verify that his or her presence is adequately recorded in the instructor's attendance book.

Permissible reasons for any student to qualify for a make up of required course work are limited to: sickness, death in the family, participation in University related activities ( sports, band, choir, seminar etc. ); and extraordinary circumstances which include court appearances, family emergency etc. The pre-mentioned provisions will require an authentic proof. Whenever convenient or possible, the student should consult the instructor prior to departure in a case that will result in failure to do required work. Furthermore,

upon return, and when appropriate, the student must consult the instructor for a make up. Once this earnest request is granted, a mutually agreeable arrangement involving date, scope, style and structure of the make up should be reached. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the instructor's denial of such request.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **CHAPTER / TOPICAL CONTENTS**

- CH. 1. Politics in States and Communities
  - 2. Democracy and constitutionalism in the States
  - 3. States, Communities, and American Federalism
  - 4. Participation in State Politics
  - 5. Parties and Campaigns in the States
  - 6. Legislators in State Politics
  - 7. Governors in State Politics
  - 8. Courts, Crime and Correctional Policy
  - 9. Community Political Systems
  - 10. Styles of Community Politics
  - 11. Participation in Community Politics
  - 12. Metro-politics: Conflict in the Metropolis
  - 13. Community Power Structures
  - 14. Politics and Civil Rights
  - 15. The Politics of Education

16. The Politics of Planning, Housing, and Transportation
17. The Politics of Poverty, Welfare, and Health
18. The Politics of Budgeting and Taxation

## REFERENCES

Berry, Jeffrey M. THE INTEREST GROUP SOCIETY, Little Brown, Boston, 1984.

Gray, Virginia, Herbert Jacobs and Kenneth Vines (ed.), POLITICS IN THE AMERICAN STATES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS, Little Brown, Boston, 1983.

Howard, Kenneth S., CHANGING STATE BUDGETING, Council of State Governments, Lexington, Kentucky, 1973.

Jacobs, Herbert, CRIME AND JUSTICE IN URBAN AMERICA, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1980.

Moreshores, Dally McCally, STATE POLITICS, PARTIES AND POLICIES, Holt-Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1981.

Sabato, Larry, GOODBYE TO GOOD-TIME CHARLIES: THE AMERICAN GOVERNOR TRANSFORMED, 2nd Ed., CQ Press, Washington, D.C., 1982.

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