Political Science W3208: State Politics  
Spring 2011  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:10 – 10:25 am  
Hamilton Hall 403

Professor Justin Phillips  
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733 International Affairs Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 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, February 24th. 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 30% 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 the TA). Students are required to turn in a one-page proposal for their paper on Tuesday, March 8th. This summary should include a thesis statement, outline of the argument, and preliminary list of sources. The final paper is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, April 19th. 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 in class and 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 40% of the overall grade for the class. The date and time of the final will be announced during the semester.

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

Readings

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

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

COURSE OUTLINE

I. AMERICAN FEDERALISM

January 18th: Overview (no assignments)

January 20th: Why Federalism?

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


(3) Alexis de Tocqueville, “Advantages of the Federal System in General and its Special Usefulness in America.” (Course packet)

January 25th: The State-Federal Relationship I


January 27th: The State-Federal Relationship II


February 1st: Interstate Relations I: Competition


February 3rd: Interstate Relations II: Cooperation


February 8th: State-Local Relations


February 10th: States and Native Americans: Conflicting Dependent Sovereigns


II. STATE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

February 15th: The Creation and Evolution of State Constitutions


February 17th: State Legislatures: Lawmaking


February 22nd: State Legislatures: Institutions


February 24th: Midterm
March 1st: The Executive Branch: The Governor


March 3rd: The Executive Branch: The Plural Executive & State Bureaucracies


March 8th: The State Judiciary


(3) Paper Proposal Due

III. ELECTIONS & PARTICIPATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

March 10th: State Elections


March 15th: Spring break (no class)

March 17th: Spring break (no class)

March 22nd: Redistricting


March 24th: Direct Democracy I


March 29th: Direct Democracy II


March 31st: No Lecture (Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association)

April 5th: State Political Parties


April 7th: Public Opinion


IV. PUBLIC POLICY IN THE STATES

April 12th: Budgeting


(3) NCSL Fiscal Brief: State Balanced Budget Provisions (CourseWorks)

April 14th: Welfare & Health Policy

April 19th: Education


(2) Paper Due

April 21st: Same-Sex Marriage

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


April 26th: Environmental Policy


April 28th: Do State Governments Have Foreign Policies?
