

POLS 212
STATE GOVERNMENT
University of Illinois at Chicago
Fall 2014, Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:45 PM, BSB 289
Alba Alexander

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Can and should states be more activist than the federal government? Can and should states resist the federal government? Under what circumstances and for what purposes? What is the constitutional warrant for doing so? This course examines the politics and policies of the U.S. states.

Course Format and Assignments

Required readings are all available on Blackboard. The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Active and informed student involvement is essential. Attendance at every session is expected. The final grade will be based on the following:

Participation and Preparation.....	15%
Oral Presentation.....	10%
Leading Discussion.....	10%
Exam I.....	30%
Exam II.....	35%

Date

Aug. 26, 28

Required

Reading:

Course Outline and Reading

Week 1. Introduction

- Van Horn, C. E. (2006). *The state of the states* (4th ed.). Washington DC: CQ Quarterly Press.
- Moncreif, G. & Squire, P. (2013). *Why states matter*. Lanham, MA: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Jacobs, L. (2013). Right vs. left in the Midwest. *New York Times*, November 23.

Sept. 2, 4

Required

Reading:

Week 2. Beyond Red State Blue State

- Gelman, A., Park,D., Shor, B., & Cortina,J. (2010). *Red state, blue state, rich state, poor state*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.
- Fiorina, M. (2010) *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized Public*. Pearson.
- Frank, T. (2004). *What's the matter with Kansas? How conservatives won the heart of America*. New York, NY: Metropolitan Books.
- Bartels, L.M. (2006). What's the matter with what's the matter with Kansas? *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 1.
- Frank, T. (2005). Class is dismissed. (a reply to Bartels)

Sept. 9, 11

Required

Reading:

Week 3. Federalism and the States

- Walker, D. (2000). *The rebirth of federalism*. New York and London: Chatham House Publishers.
- Freeman, R.B. & Rogers, J. (2007). The promise of progressive federalism. In J. Soss, J.S. Hacker, & S. Mettler (Eds.), *Remaking America: Democracy and public policy in an age of inequality*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

Supplementary

Reading:

Gamkhar, S., & Pickerill, J.M. (2012). The state of American federalism 2011-2012: A fend for yourself and activist form of bottom-up federalism. *Publius*.

Sept. 16, 18

Required

Reading:

Week 4. U.S. States in Historical Context

- Weir, M. (2005). States, race and the collapse of New Deal liberalism. *Studies in American Political Development*
- Conlan, T. (1998). *From new federalism to devolution*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution.

Supplementary
Reading:

McDonagh, E.L. (1993). The “welfare rights state” and the “civil rights state”; Policy paradox and state building in the Progressive Era. *Studies in American Political Development*, 7, 2.

Sept. 23, 25
Required
Reading:

Week 5. States as Victims of Circumstance: Inter-State Competition

- Thomas, K. (2003). Geographic scales and the competition for economic growth. In M. Parkinson, B. Foley, & D. Judd (Eds.), *Globalization and the new politics of urban development*. The American Behavioral Scientist.
- Saiz, M. & Clarke, S.E. (2013) Economic Development and Infrastructure Policy. In Gray, V., Hanson, R.L. & Kousser, T. (2013) *Politics in the American states*.
- Jansa, J. & Gray, V. (2014), The politics and economics of corporate subsidies in the 21st century. State Politics and Policy Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Supplementary
Reading:

Donahue, J.D. (1997). Research on the impact of business-attraction policies. In *The disunited states*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
Lynch, R. G. (1996). The effectiveness of state and local tax cuts and incentives: A review of the literature. *State Tax Notes*, September 30.

Sept. 30, Oct.2
Required
Reading:

Week 6. Governors

- Kousser, T., & Phillips, J.H. (2012) *The Power of American Governors*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kilberg, R., & Burns, K. (Producers). Burns, K. (Director). (1985). *Huey Long*. (Video). U.S. PBS. (88 minutes).

Supplementary
Reading:

- Walker, S. (2013). *Unintimidated: A Governor’s Story and a Nation’s Challenge*. NY: Sentinel H.C., Penguin Books.

Oct. 7, 9
Required
Reading:

Week 7. Legislatures

- Rosenthal, A. (1998). *The decline of representative democracy*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Supplementary
Reading:

Hamm, K.E., & Moncrief, G.F. (2013). Legislative politics in the states. In V. Gray, R.L. Hanson, & T. Kousser (Eds.), *Politics in the American states*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Oct. 9: **Exam I**

Oct. 14, 16

Week 8. Parties and Voice

Required

Reading:

- Brown, R. D. (1995). Party cleavages and welfare efforts in the American states. *American Political Science Review*, 89,1.
- Hicks, A., Friedland, R., &Johnson,E. (1978). Class power and state policy: The case of large business corporations, labor unions and governmental redistribution in the American states. *American Sociological Review*, 43,3.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Erikson, R.S., Wright, G.C., & McIver, J.P. (1993). *Statehouse democracy: Public opinion and policy in the American states*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Nice, D.C. (1984). Interest groups and policymaking in the American states. *Political Behavior*.

Oct. 21, 23

Week 9. Courts and Rights Protection

Required

Reading:

- Rosenberg, G. (1991) *The hollow hope: Can courts bring about social change?* Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- Hume, R. J. (2013). *Courthouse Democracy and Minority Rights: Same-Sex Marriage in the States*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Rosenberg, G. (2008). Ideological preferences and hollow hopes: Responding to criticism.
<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/rosenberg/index.html>

Oct. 28, 30

Week 10. State-Local Relations

Required

Reading:

- Frug,, G.E., & Barron, D.J. (2008). *City bound: How states stifle urban innovation*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Shiphon, C.R., & Volden, C. (2006). Bottom-up federalism: The diffusion of antismoking policies from U.S. cities to states. *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Burns, N., Evans, L, Gamm, G., & McConnaughy, C. (2009). Urban politics in the state arena. *Studies in American Political Development*, 23, 1.

Nov. 4, 6

Week 11. Budgets

Required

Reading:

- Lowry, R.C. (2013). Fiscal policy in the American states. In V. Gray, R.L. Hanson, & T. Kousser (Eds.), *Politics in the American states*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

Supplementary

Reading: Lu, A. (2014). States debate millionaires' taxes. *Stateline*, July 16.
Campbell, A.L. & Sances, M.W. (2013) State fiscal policy during the Great Recession: Budgetary impacts and policy responses. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 650, November.

Nov. 11, 13 **Week 12. Health Care Reform**

Required

Reading: •Rigby, E. (2012). State resistance to Obamacare. *The Forum*, 10, 2.
•Olson, L.K. (2012). Medicaid, the states and health care reform. *New Political Science*.

Supplementary

Reading: McElwee, S. (2013). Can Vermont's single-payer system fix what ails American healthcare? *The Atlantic*, December 27.

Nov. 18, 20 **Week 13 Immigration and Civil Rights**

Required

Reading: •Reich, F., & Barth, J. (2012). Immigration restriction in the states: Contesting the boundaries of federalism? *Publius*.
•Chavez, J.M., & Provine, D.M. (2009). Race and the response of state legislatures to unauthorized immigrants. *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science*, 623.
•Semuels, A. (2014). New voter ID laws: Nothing like it 'since Reconstruction.' *Los Angeles Times*, May 4.

Supplementary

Reading: Foner, N. (2013). Immigration past and present. *Daedalus*, 142,3.

Nov. 25, **Week 14. Ballot Initiatives and Referenda: Democracy in Action or Delusion?**

Required

Reading: •Lupia, A., & Matsusaka, J.G. (2004). Direct democracy: New approaches to old questions. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7.

Supplementary

Reading: Phillips, J. (2008). Does the citizens initiative weaken party government in the U.S. states? *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, 82.

Note: November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday. **No Class.**

Dec. 2, 4 **Week 15. Review/Wrap-Up. Dec 4: Exam II**