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%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Outline and Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26, 28</td>
<td>Week 1. Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Reading:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2, 4</td>
<td>Week 2. Beyond Red State Blue State</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Reading:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Frank, T. (2005). Class is dismissed. (a reply to Bartels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 9, 11</td>
<td>Week 3. Federalism and the States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Reading:</td>
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<td>Supplementary Reading:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 16, 18</td>
<td>Week 4. U.S. States in Historical Context</td>
</tr>
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<td>Required Reading:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sept. 23, 25 Week 5. States as Victims of Circumstance: Inter-State Competition


Sept. 30, Oct. 2 Week 6. Governors


Oct. 7, 9 Week 7. Legislatures


Oct. 9: Exam I
### Oct. 14, 16

**Week 8. Parties and Voice**


**Supplementary Reading:**


### Oct. 21, 23

**Week 9. Courts and Rights Protection**


**Supplementary Reading:**


### Oct. 28, 30

**Week 10. State-Local Relations**


**Supplementary Reading:**


### Nov. 4, 6

**Week 11. Budgets**


Nov. 11, 13
Week 12. Health Care Reform
Required Reading:


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.


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


Note: November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class.

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