PLSC 202 “State and Local Government” Syllabus Winter 2017

Professor: Adrian J. Lottie, Ph.D.

State & Local Government CRN23262

Class 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm TR

Pray-Harrold Hall 419

CRN: 23262 Office Hours:

Time: T-Th: 9:00-9:30 am, 12:30-2:pm,4:45-5:00pm

Place: 420 PH

Text: “Governing in States and Localities: The Essentials”

Kevin B. Smith and Alan Greenblatt

2015

Available online at Sage CQ Press, Amazon and other online sources and possibly campus bookstores.

Course Objectives
The course introduces students to the forms and functions of state and local governments in the U.S. It uses a comparative approach including politics, institutions, and policies. Special emphasis will also be given to Michigan and the greater Detroit area.

E-mails: Identify yourself and the class that you are attending on the subject line for all e-mail correspondence. Identify the course by number: 202 on the subject line at the beginning. Failure to do so may lead to a non-response. In general, I will only respond to e-mails concerning the assignments or exams. Attendance issues should be dealt with in person.

All exams and assignments sent via e-mail must have a traceable proof of sending in case the technology does not work or they are lost somehow. Hence, save all e-mailed exams and/or assignments on a separate disk, hard drive and/or printer to be sure that you can prove that you sent the exam or assignment within the time period allotted. The actual e-mail (or a copy of it) showing the date and time sent along with the attachment must be available for proof: in a hard copy or electronic form for proof of sending.

EXAMS ASSIGNMENTS & ATTENDANCE

There will be three examinations: mixed items covering the reading and discussions with emphasis on the discussions. No late and no make-up exams/assignments except in documented emergencies subject to the discretion of the professor. Late exams and 1zero: only extenuating circumstances approved by the professor are accepted. Each exam will constitute 30% of your grade, and participation in classroom discussions/attendance 10%. Scale: 90-100=A, 88-89=A-, 86-87=B+, 80-85=B, 78-79=B-, 76-77=C+, 70-75=C, 68-69=C-, 60-67=D, 0- 59=F

Assignments and/or exams must be saved and sent via e-mail attachment in the Rich Text format. Failure to do so will result in a ZERO grade for the assignment/exam. In general, the format for exams and assignments will be saved in Rich Text Format due to its use across platforms. However, special aspects of assignments/exams may require another format for example a spreadsheet format.
Grades are NOT based upon your race, gender, political views or any other demographic or ideological characteristic. They are based upon an honest assessment of your performance. If you have a grievance about your grade please see me. If not satisfied at that point then file a grade grievance with the Department of Political Science or Student Conduct and Community Standards 250 Student Center Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734.487.2157. Fax: 734.487.4376. To blame the professor, or even worse to make up stories about what the professor supposedly said in class when he didn’t is an embarrassment to you and possibly both of us.
Letter of Recommendation Policy

Letters of Recommendation: Letters of recommendation, in general, will only be written for the top two to three students in this class when requested. Exceptions are rare and only provided in cases where the student's performance in another, relevant arena, known by the professor, warrants consideration.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any cheating, copying of another’s work, cheating on the exams, etc. will be addressed severely with strong consequences based upon university policies and the policies of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Class Policies and Civility

Academic Dishonesty: cheating, plagiarism, etc., will not be tolerated and will be disciplined according to university policy and may be referred to the EMU Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. At the very least it most likely will result in an F for the particular offending assignment/exam.

Students are expected to behave in a civil manner toward each other, the faculty and any invited guest within the classroom. Uncivil behavior will be addressed, and, if not corrected, most likely will result in removal of the offending person from the class.

Study Tips for This Course

1. Be inquisitive; grades are important but learning is often the key to grades: try to learn something.
2. Keep this syllabus in a permanent easy to access place: file cabinet, loose leaf notebook,

3. At least each day that you plan to attend class and preferably each week day, review the syllabus.

4. Imagine that you are an executive who has to manage every detail of your own affairs and consider this course one of your major projects and responsibilities.

5. Read assignments before class.

6. Invest at least two hours per day during the week for this course.

7. Invest at least eight hours total in preparation for each examination.

8. Review your notes and discussions regularly: do not wait for examinations to do so.

9. Break down your writing/exam and when appropriate, discussion assignments into little pieces and work on the little pieces regularly, well in advance of due dates.

10. Read the comments/notes by the professor and note comments by other students so that you are abreast of and aware of the “tempo/rhythm” of the class.

11. Do not get behind during the semester: it is very difficult to keep up when you do. This is especially true for assignment deadlines.

12. Attend class regularly: often discussions and materials are presented during class that are not available at any other time or place. These in turn are often subjects of exam questions.
1. Civility and academic honesty are required. Engaging in uncivil or dishonest behavior may result in disciplinary action against the offending student.

Tentative Lecture and Discussion Schedule  Refers to

Week 1      Ch 1  Introduction
Week 2      Ch 2  Federalism
Week 3      Ch 3 Constitutions
Week 4      Ch 4 Finance

Week 5      Exam 1(take-home) Covering 1-4 Ch 5 Political Attitudes and Participation

Week 6      Ch 6 Parties and Interest Groups
Week 7      Ch 7 Legislatures

Week 8      Winter Break
Week 9      Ch 8 The Executive Branch and Bureaucracy

Exam 2 (take-home) Covering 5-8

Week 10     Ch 9 Courts
Week 11  Ch 10 Local Governments

Week 12-14  Selected State and Local Topics:

e.g., Community Development Agreements; Community Benefits Agreements; Emergency Management (State Takeover Laws) Final Examination Due Thursday April 20, 2017 via e-mail attachment saved in Rich Text Format.  4:30 p.m

"Good Luck!!!