

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

POL 202-WB1

Fall 2013

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Day/Time: Online

CRN: 2106

Course Materials: State and Local Government, 9th edition, Bowman/Kearney: Cengage, ISBN 9781435462687. Access to word processing software (if the student does not own Word, Wordperfect, Pages, etc., they can access free software at <http://www.openoffice.org/download/> and <http://www.libreoffice.org/download/>).

Course Description: Examines the institutions, processes and significance of state and local government. 3 Credits.

Class Focus: For the purposes of this class, to learn from the textbook is simply not enough. As citizens, we have more access to our state and local government than to our federal government. I hope that in the course of your forum posts and outside research for essays, you will tailor this course to your own interests. For each week's readings, find additional sources online that add to your learning on something *you're* interested in. Then share that with the other students in the forums and write about it in your short papers. If at any time something happens in local and state news that you find interesting, send it to me, and I'll share it with the class. I want this to be interactive.

Learner Outcomes:

The following list of course objectives will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives.

1. Explain how state and local governments are directly involved in our daily lives.
2. Summarize how fiscal stress, interjurisdictional competition, and political corruption affect states and localities.
3. Define the different systems of government found within the United States
4. Discuss the different forms of federalism.
5. Contrast different methods of constitutional reform.
6. Analyze how interest groups affect state and local politics.
7. List the three principal functions of legislatures.
8. Summarize the power of the veto in the legislative process.
9. List the duties of governors.
10. Contrast the similarities and differences of recalls versus impeachments.
11. Identify the principal actors in the budgetary process.
12. Analyze the role of affirmative action in the hiring process for state and local government positions.

13. Discuss the five methods for selecting judges.
14. Define the function of appellate and trial courts.
15. Describe the role of the city manager within a local government.
16. Trace the major changes in city councils from “good-old-boy” clubs to more diverse bodies.
17. List the three types of state-local organizations.
18. Summarize how state and local governments raise and allocate taxes.
19. Compare and contrast the four waves of approaches and strategies to economic development in state governments.
20. Explain how state and local governments along with the education establishment largely determine policy development and outcomes.
21. Name the four key actors in criminal justice policy.
22. Examine “poverty level” as an valid indicator of citizen well-being.
23. Discuss the state, local, and federal relationship that must occur to implement laws such as the Affordable Care Act.
24. Explain how the federal government aids state and local governments achieve “green” goals.
25. Explain how increases in racial and ethnic diversity within the United States affect local and state politics, including issues of redistricting.
26. Understand how political parties, incumbency, and lobbies all affect switches in power in state and local politics.
27. Outline the process by which a bill becomes a law.
28. Discuss the ethical component of varied state responses to capital punishment, victimless crimes, and abortion.
29. Be able to treat persons of different political beliefs with respect.
30. Understand how political science can be applied to many other classes in the liberal arts.

Course Policies:

Attendance

Students are expected to keep up with the course materials and to turn things in when they are due. Please contact me *before* an issue would keep you from doing your work on time if at all possible. Constant communication with me is essential for doing well in this course. You will never “bug me” by writing me an email.

Grading:

Students must complete the readings for the course in the order they appear and on time. Due dates for readings assignments will be posted at the end of this. Assignments and quizzes may *always* be completed early. Students shall at all times turn in *their own work*.

Each week’s work is compiled in a folder under “Content.” Complete all work in each folder each week.

All assignments must be turned in Microsoft Word or .rtf (Rich Text) format. No other formats will be accepted. *All assignments* must be written following proper spelling and grammar and free of Internet-speak. If a student needs help with spelling and grammar, I will be more than happy to assist them.

Students should strive to complete all work on time. Work that is not handed in on time will lose 10% of their grade on the assignment for every day it is late. Exceptions can be made to this policy if requests are made prior to the scheduled date and time of an assignment, quiz, or test, or if there is a truly mitigating circumstance. All work can be made up, so please contact the professor if a make-up is needed.

Grades for this course are on a point system. At the end of the semester, the student's grade will be given as a percentage, based on the points earned out of all possible points. The types of graded work in this course include:

- Discussion Posts – Students will have a discussion post due each week. Discussion posts will be a reaction to what they have read that week in the text. They can respond from personal experience, in a respectful way, if they feel that appropriate. Or, they can discuss something that surprised or intrigued them about the reading from that week. Though less formal than the short essays, students must remember that these discussion posts are going to be graded as academic writing, so grammar and spelling will still factor into their grade. Please, no Internet-speak on these discussion posts. **Discussion posts should be about 200 words long and are worth 10 points each.** There will be 15 discussion posts this semester, for up to 150 points. Please see the syllabus for due-dates for each post.
- Discussion Responses – In addition to posting discussion posts, students will also respond to a *minimum of* two of their peers' posts each week. Responses can be shorter, around 50 words, but still must follow the same requirements for quality as discussion posts. **Students will be graded for their first two responses, which should be about 50-100 words each and will total 10 points.** There will be 15 discussion responses this semester, for up to 150 points. Please see the syllabus for due-dates for responses.
- Quizzes – Each week, students will have a quiz on the reading done *that week* in class. They will consist of 30 multiple choice and true-false questions. Quizzes will open on Monday and must be completed by Friday at midnight each week. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz once they begin the quiz. **Each quiz is worth 30 points each.** There will be 15 quizzes this semester, for up to 450 points. Please see the syllabus for quiz dates.
- Short Essays – Weekly, students will have to pick a theme within that week's reading that interests them and do some "further research." This might be news articles, encyclopedia entries, blog posts, etc. Students will have to show mastery of the portion of the week's reading that they have chosen as well as documentation of all other info found. These essays should be reflective in nature, showing the instructor how you have approached the material and what you have learned. These essays will be turned in as an Exercise under each week's folder in "Content" on Blackboard. **Short essays should be 400-500 words each and are worth 20 points each.** There will be 15 short essays this semester for up to 300 points. Please see the syllabus for due-dates for each essay. Please note: **WIKIPEDIA IS NEVER AN APPROPRIATE**

SOURCE FOR ACADEMIC WRITING. If you are concerned that other resources may not be appropriate, please do not hesitate to pass them by me.

Students final grades will be a percentage of points earned out of points available: ____/1050 points. Students in this course will be graded on the following scale: A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59-0

Behavior

The study of politics is incredibly personal for many people. As such, I will always require you to treat myself and your classmates with respect. Students will never be required to talk about their personal beliefs in this course. That being said, if a student wishes to share anything in their response posts, they will be treated with dignity.

Academic Integrity and Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is any practice which gives one student a dishonorable advantage over another student engaged in the same or similar course of study and which, if known by the instructor in such course of study, would be prohibited. This shall include, but is not limited to, the following: securing or giving assistance during examinations or on required work; the improper use of books, notes, or other sources of information; submitting as one's own work or creation of any kind that which is wholly or in part created by another; securing and/or distributing all or any part of examinations or assignments prior to their being submitted to the class as a whole; or the altering of any grade or academic record. If an occurrence of Academic Dishonesty is observed on the part of a student, the case shall be handled in accordance with the procedures identified in the Student Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College programs and courses will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and you are seeking accommodations for this course or your academic program, you will need to contact Robert Eagle, Dean for Academic & Student Services, with the Office of Disability Services at 304-434-8000, extension 223.

Title VII Notice:

Eastern West Virginia Technical and Community College is dedicated to ensuring a positive classroom environment. Discriminatory comments and actions based on age, race, religion, marital status, and gender are inappropriate classroom behaviors and will not be tolerated. Any further suggestions that would work to maintain such an environment should be directed to the instructor.

NOTICE: This syllabus is subject to change as determined by the instructor. **Students will be provided a written notification of any changes in course requirements and assignments.**

Course Schedule

All assignments posts and discussion posts will be made available to students from the beginning of the course and are due by midnight of the date assigned. Students may complete them at any time before they are due. Quizzes will be made available Monday the week they are due; however, quizzes are timed from the moment of entry, so please set aside enough time to complete these before midnight on the date assigned.

PLEASE NOTE: For a few of our weeks (7, 10, 12, and 16), we will read *two* chapters of the Bowman/Kearney text instead of just one. Please plan ahead for these weeks.

Week One (August 19-23) – Introduction to Online Courses

- Monday: Syllabus and Online Materials, located on Blackboard. Please visit all parts of the course and read the syllabus carefully.
- Tuesday: Discussion 1 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 1 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 1 (What I Hope to Learn in “State and Local Government”) due by midnight in Content.
- Friday: Quiz 1 over Introduction Module due by midnight (can be done at any this week).

Week Two (August 26-30) – New Directions for State and Local Governments

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney Chapter 1
- Tuesday: Discussion 2 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 2 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 2 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 1 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 2 over Chapter 1 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Three (September 2-6) – Federalism and the States

- Monday: No Class – Labor Day
- Tuesday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 2; Discussion 3 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 3 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 3 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 2 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 3 over Chapter 2 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Four (September 9-13) – State Constitutions

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 3
- Tuesday: Discussion 4 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 4 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 4 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 3 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 4 over Chapter 3 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Five (September 16-20) – Citizen Participation and Elections

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 4
- Tuesday: Discussion 5 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 5 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 5 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 4 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 5 over Chapter 4 (can be done at any time this week).

Week Six (September 23-27) – Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Campaigns

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 5
- Tuesday: Discussion 6 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 6 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 6 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 5 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 6 over Chapter 5 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Seven (September 30-October 4) – State Legislatures; Governors

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapters 6-7
- Tuesday: Discussion 7 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 7 due by midnight in Forums; Thursday: Response 7 due by midnight in Forums
- Thursday: Short Essay 7 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 6-7 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 7 over Chapters 6-7 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Eight (October 7-11) – Public Administration: Budgeting and Service Delivery

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 8
- Tuesday: Discussion 8 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 8 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 8 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 8 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 8 over Chapter 8 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Nine (October 14-18) – The Judiciary

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 9
- Tuesday: Discussion 9 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 9 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 9 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 8 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 9 over Chapter 9 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Ten (October 21-25) – Local Government: Types and Functions; Local Leadership and Governance

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 10-11
- Tuesday: Discussion 10 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 10 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 10 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 10-11 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 10 over Chapter 10-11 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Eleven (October 28-November 1) – State-Local Relations

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 12
- Tuesday: Discussion 11 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 11 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 11 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 12 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 11 over Chapter 12 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Twelve (November 4-8) – Taxing and Spending; Economic Development

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 13-14
- Tuesday: Discussion 12 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 12 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 12 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 13-14 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 12 over Chapter 13-14 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Thirteen (November 11-15) –Education Policy

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 15
- Tuesday: Discussion 13 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 13 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 13 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 15 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 13 over Chapter 15 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Fourteen (November 18-22) – Criminal Justice

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 16
- Tuesday: Discussion 14 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 4 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 14 due by midnight in Content (On Chapter 16 with additional resources found by the student).
- Friday: Quiz 14 over Chapter 16 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).

Week Fifteen (November 25-29) – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week Sixteen (December 2-6) – Social Welfare and Health Care Policy; Environmental Policy

- Monday: Bowman/Kearney, Chapter 17-18
- Tuesday: Discussion 15 due by midnight in Forums.
- Wednesday: Response 15 due by midnight in Forums.
- Thursday: Short Essay 15 due by midnight in Content.
- Friday: Quiz 15 over Chapter 17-18 due by midnight (can be done at any time this week).