

# POLS 520: Seminar in American State Politics

Spring 2014  
McGannon 121  
Monday 4:20-6:50

Instructor: Dr. Jason Windett  
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## Course Description

This is a graduate seminar in American State Politics. This course will focus on the comparative study of U.S. state politics. The topics we cover within this course will range widely across those commonly examined in political science, including studies of elections, mass behavior, public opinion, the specific institutions of government, and policy making. Our over-arching focus will be on the process of representation in democracies with a particular interest in how different state contextual and institutional factors help structure this process.

## Learning Objectives

1. To understand the basic conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of political science research in multiple areas of American State politics
2. To understand the theoretical underpinnings of research focusing on the variation institutional design and outcomes in state political systems, with a focus on legislative, executive, judicial, and bureaucratic institutions.
3. To understand the theoretical underpinnings of research focusing on political behavior, with a focus on political parties, interest groups, and campaigns and elections

## Course Structure

This course is designed as a seminar. As such, an emphasis will be placed on critical discussion of the assigned reading material. Students should come to class prepared and ready to participate actively in these discussions.

## My Teaching Philosophy

I believe that my role in the classroom is to help you learn the class material, as well as skills such as clear writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Towards this end, I develop a class that calls upon students to engage in reading, writing, talking, and listening. I want you to learn; I try to help make the material and tasks as clear as possible so that you are able to learn. I have an open door policy and will work with you to help you master class and reading material, as well as critical thinking skills.

## Your Learning Philosophy

If you want a high grade with a minimum amount of work, you should enroll in another class. You will need to be dedicated to keeping up with the reading load and course assignments. If you want to learn as much as possible on the topic of state politics, this class should be highly satisfactory. As graduate students, I expect that you will consistently come to class prepared and ready to participate.

## Readings

The following book has been ordered for the course.

## Final Exam:35%

There will be an in-class written final exam. The final exam will be held during the final class meeting, Monday, May 12th at 4. This will be a cumulative examination on material covered throughout the semester.

## Grade Scale

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale. I reserve the right to make adjustments to grades based on overall performance in the course. There will be no extra credit offered in the course, nor will there be curving grades.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	F	62 or below
B	83-87	C-	70-72		

## Honor Code

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying

## Expectations and Procedures

### Technology

Put everything on mute. You do not need to use your lap top for this course. Please take notes the old fashion way. This will dissuade the trend of college students to browse the web, check e-mail, and frequent social networking sites during lecture. I will post all lecture powerpoints on blackboard after the daily lecture. If I use additional material I will post it on blackboard so you may access it at a later point.

### Communication

I will post grades, send class e-mails, etc. . . with Blackboard. Be sure that you can access the e-mail address listed. I will only send e-mail out to your SLU e-mail accounts listed on the course roster in Blackboard. I will not keep track of any other e-mail addresses you may use.

I am very accessible both during and after normal work days. Please feel free to contact me or stop by my office if you need to talk. Also, please contact me immediately if you are going to miss an exam or need to reschedule. I do not like to give make up exams, but under extenuating situations, I will make allowances. Please contact me prior to the exam if you need to reschedule, I will not allow make up exams if contacted after the exam period.

### Disabilities

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

## Tentative Course Outline

Please complete the readings prior to class time on the day assigned so that you can fully participate.

January 13th Introduction and Course Overview

January 20th No class, Martin Luther King Day

## January 27th Political Behavior and Participation in the States

### *Required Readings*

- { Wol nger, Raymond E., Benjamin Highton, and Megan Mullin. 2005. "How Post-registration Laws A ect the Turnout of Citizens Registered to Vote." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5(1):1-23.
- { Tucker, Harvey. 1986. "Contextual Models of Participation in U.S. State Legislative Elections" *Western Politics Quarterly*: 67-78.
- { Knack, Stephen. 1995. "Does Motor Voter work? Evidence from State-level Data" *Journal of Politics* 57 :796-811.
- { Jackson, Robert. 1997. "The Mobilization of U.S. State Electorates in the 1988 and 1990 Elections" *Journal of Politics* 59: 520-537.
- { Brown,Robert, Robert Jackson, and Gerald Wright. 1999. "Registration, Turnout, and State Party Systems" *Political Research Quarterly* 52: 463-480.
- { Jackson, Robert A. and Thomas M. Carsey 2007. "U.S. Senate Campaigns, Negative Advertising, and Voter Mobilization in the 1998 Midterm Election." *Electoral Studies* 26(1):180-95.

### *Recommended Readings*

- { Hill, Kim Quaille. 1994. *Democracy in the Fifty States*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- { Bryan, Frank M. 2004. *Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting and How it Works*. University of Chicago Press.
- { Gerber, Elisabeth and Rebecca Morton. 1998. "Primary Election Systems and Representation." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 14: 304-324.
- { Springer, Melanie J. 2012. "State Electoral Institutions and Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 12(3): 252-83.
- { Lowry, Robert, James Alt, and Karen Ferree. 1998. "Fiscal Policy Outcomes and Electoral Accountability in the American States." *American Political Science Review*, 92:759-74.
- { McDonald, Michael P. 2004. "A Comparative Analysis of U.S. State Redistricting Institutions." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 4(4): 371-396.
- { Kousser, Thad and Megan Mullin. 2007. "Does Voting by Mail Increase Participation? Using Matching to Analyze a Natural Experiment." *Political Analysis* 15: 428-45.

## February 3rd Campaigns and Elections

### *Required Readings*

- { Campbell, James E. 1986. "Presidential Coattails and Midterm Losses in State Legislative Elections." *American Political Science Review* 80:45-64.
- { Chubb, John. 1988. "Institutions, the Economy, and Dynamics of State Elections." *American Political Science Review* 82: 133-54.



- { Butler, Daniel and David Broockman. 2011. "Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 463-77.
- { Lax, Jeffrey and Justin H. Phillips. 2009. "Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness: Gay Rights in the States." *American Political Science Review* 103(3): 367-385.
- { Lupia, Arthur, Yanna Krupnikov, Adam Seth Levine, Spencer Piston, Alexander Von Hagen-Jamar. 2010. "Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Marriage." *The Journal of Politics* 72(4): 1222-35.

*Recommended Readings*

- { Bratton, Kathleen A., and Kerry L. Haynie. 1999. "Agenda Setting and Legislative Success in State Legislatures: The Effects of Gender and Race." *Journal of Politics* 61: 658-79.
- { Hero, Rodney E. 2007. *Racial Diversity and Social Capital: Equality and Community in America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- { Haider-Markel, Donald P., and Kenneth J. Meier. 1996. "The Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights: Expanding the Scope of the Conflict." *The Journal of Politics* 58(2): 332-349.
- { Preuhs, Robert R. 2006. "The Conditional Effects of Minority Descriptive Representation: Black Legislators and Policy Influence in the American States." *Journal of Politics* 68(3): 585-599.
- { Key, V.O. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- { Cammisa, Anne Marie, and Beth Reingold. 2004. "Women in State Legislatures and State Legislative Research: Beyond Sameness and Difference." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 4(2): 181-210.
- { Keiser, Lael R., Peter R. Muesser, Seung-Whan Choi. 2004. "Race, Bureaucratic Discretion, and the Implementation of Welfare Reform." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(2): 314-327.
- { Button, James, and David Hedge. 1996. "Legislative Life in the 1990s: A Comparison of Black and White State Legislators." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 21:199-218.
- { Kathlene, Lyn. 1994. "Power and Influence in State Legislative Policymaking: The Interaction of Gender and Position in Committee Hearing Debates." *American Political Science Review*. 560-576.
- { Lublin, David, and D. Stephen Voss. 2000. "Racial Redistricting and Realignment in Southern State Legislatures." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (4):792-810.

February 17th Governors

*Required Readings*

- { Dometrius, Nelson C. 1987. "Changing Gubernatorial Power: The Measure vs. Reality." *Western Political Quarterly* 40: 319-333.
- { Dahlberg, Matz, and Eva Johansson. 2002. "On the Vote-Purchasing Behavior of Incumbent Governments." *American Political Science Review* 96 (1):27.

- { Barrilleaux, Charles and Michael Berkman. 2003. "Do Governors Matter? Budgeting Rules and the Politics of State Policy Making," *Political Research Quarterly* 56: 409-17.
- { Kousser, Thad and Justin Phillips. 2009. "Who Blinks First? Legislative Patience and Bargaining with Governors." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. XXXIV.
- { Klarner, Carl, Justin Phillips, and Matt Muckler. 2012. "Overcoming Fiscal Gridlock: Institutions and Budget Bargaining." *Journal of Politics*. 74.
- { Brown, Adam. 2010. "Are Governors Responsible for the State Economy? Partisanship, Blame, and Divided Federalism." *Journal of Politics* 72(3): 605-15.

*Recommended Readings*

- { Cooney, Daniel. 2005. "Measuring Gubernatorial Ideology: A Content Analysis of State of the State Speeches." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5(Spring):88-103.
- { Abney, Glenn, and Thomas P. Lauth. 1997. "The Item Veto and Fiscal Responsibility." *Journal of Politics*. 59:882-892.
- { Dometrius, Nelson. 1979. "Measuring Gubernatorial Power." *Journal of Politics* 41: 589-610.
- { Sabato, Larry. 1983. *Good-bye to Good-Time Charlie*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- { Morehouse, Sarah McCally. *The Governor as Party Leader: Campaigning and Governing*. University of Michigan Press, 1998.
- { Wiggins, Charles W. 1980. "Executive Vetoes and Legislative Overrides in the American States." *Journal of Politics*. 42:1110-1117.
- { Dilger, Robert Jay, George A. Krause, and Randolph R. Moettl. 1995. "State Legislative Professionalism and Gubernatorial Effectiveness, 1978-1991." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 20:553-571.



- { Gamm, Gerald and Thad Kousser. 2010. "Broad Bills or Particularistic Policy? Historical Patterns in American State Legislatures." *American Political Science Review* 104(1): 151-70.

*Recommended Readings*

- { Kirkland, Justin. 2011. "The Relational Determinants of Legislative Outcomes: Strong and Weak Ties Between Legislators." *Journal of Politics*. 73(3)
- { Bianco, William T. and Itai Sened. 2005. "Uncovering Evidence of Conditional Party Government: Reassessing Majority Party Influence in Congress and State Legislatures." *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 361-371.
- { Van Dunk, Emily, and Ronald E. Weber. 1997. "Constituency-Level Competition in the U.S. States, 1968-1988: A Pooled Analysis." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 22:141-159.
- { Preuhs, Robert R. 2006. "The Conditional Effects of Minority Descriptive Representation: Black Legislators and Policy Influence in the American States." *Journal of Politics* 68(3): 585-599.
- { Hamm, Keith E., Ronald D. Hedlund, and Nancy Martorano. 2006. "Measuring State Legislative Committee Power: Change and Chamber Differences in the 20th Century." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 6(1): 88-111.
- { Rosenthal, Alan. 1998. *The Decline of Representative Democracy: Process, Participation, and Power in State Legislatures*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- { Squire, Peverill and Keith E. Hamm. 101 Chambers: Congress, State Legislatures, and the Future of Legislative Studies. Ohio State University Press, 2005.
- { Kousser, Thad. *Term Limits and the Dismantling of State Legislative Professionalism*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- { Jewell, Malcolm E. And Marcia Lynn Whicker. 1994. *Legislative Leadership in the American States*. U. of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, MI
- { Shor, Boris and Nolan M. McCarty. 2011. "The Ideological Mapping of American Legislatures." *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 530-51.

March 3rd State Courts

*Required Readings*

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- { Brace, Paul, and Melinda Gann Hall. 1995. "Studying Courts Comparatively: The View From the American States." *Political Research Quarterly*. 48:5-28.

*Recommended Readings*

- { Gibson, James L. 2008. "Challenges to the Impartiality of State Supreme Courts: Legitimacy Theory and "New-Style" Judicial Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 59-75.
- { Gordon, Sanford C. and Gregory A. Huber (2007) "The Effect of Electoral Competitiveness on Incumbent Behavior." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 2.
- { Mark Hurwitz and Drew Noble Lanier. 2003. "Explaining Judicial Diversity: The Differential Ability of Women and Minorities to Attain Seats on State Supreme and Appellate Courts." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 3: 329- 352.
- { Hall, Melinda Gann. 1992. "Electoral Politics and Strategic Voting in State Supreme Courts." *Journal of Politics* 54(2): 427-446.
- { Langer, Laura, Jody McCullen, Nick Ray, and Dan Stratton. 2003. "Recruiting Chief Justices on State Supreme Courts: A Choice between Institutional and Personal Goals." *Journal of Politics* 65(3): 656-675.
- { Hall, Melinda Gann. 2001. "State Supreme Courts in American Democracy: Probing the Myths of Judicial Reform." *American Political Science Review* 95:315-330.
- { Huber, Gregory A. and Sanford C. Gordon. 2004. "Accountability and Coercion: Is Justice Blind When It Runs for Office?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48(2): 247-63.

March 10th No Class: Spring Break

March 17th State Public Opinion

- { Wright, Gerald C., Robert S. Erikson, and John P. McIver. 1985. "Measuring State Partisanship and Ideology with Survey Data." *Journal of Politics* 47(2): 469-89.
- { Berry, William D., Evan J. Ringquist, Richard C. Fording, and Russell L. Hanson. 1998. "Measuring Citizen and Government Ideology in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42:337- 348.
- { Cohen, Jeffrey E. (editor). *Public Opinion in State Politics*. Stanford University Press, 2006. Special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.
- { Berry et al. "The Measurement and Stability of State Citizen Ideology" Special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.
- { Brace et al. "Reply to "The Measurement and Stability of State Citizen Ideology." Special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.
- { Erikson et al. "Measuring the Public's Ideological Preferences in the 50 States: Survey Responses versus Roll Call Data." Special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.
- { Norrander, Barbara. "Comment: Choosing Among Indicators of State Public Opinion." Special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.

- { Berry et al. "A Rejoinder: The Measurement and Stability of State Citizen Ideology." Special issue of State Politics and Policy Quarterly. 2007, Vol. 7, Number 2.
- { Lax, Jeffrey and Justin H. Phillips. 2009. "How Should We Estimate Public Opinion in the States?" The American Journal of Political Science 53(1): 107-121.
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- { Barrilleaux, Charles. 1997. "A Test of the Independent Influences of Electoral Competition and Party Strength in a Model of State Policy-Making." *AJPS*. 41:1462-6.
- { Mooney, Christopher Z., and Mei-Hsien Lee. 1995. "Legislating Morality in the American States: The Case of Pre-Roe Abortion Regulation Reform." *American Journal of Political Science*. 39:599-627.
- { Haider-Markel, Donald P., and Kenneth J. Meier. 1996. "The Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights: Expanding the Scope of the Conflict." *Journal of Politics*. 58:332-349.
- { Brown, Robert D. 1995. "Party Cleavages and Welfare Effort in the American States." *American Political Science Review*. 89:23-33.
- { Matsusaka, John G. 2010. "Popular Control of Public Policy: A Quantitative Approach." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 133-167.

April 7th In class data session. Meet in the computer lab. Please bring all of your data with you.

April 14 No Assigned Class readings. Bring rough drafts to class for a writing session.

April 21st No class, Easter Monday

April 28th No Assigned Class readings. Peer Review day, bring full rough drafts to class

May 5th Final Papers Due. Paper Presentations

May 12th Final Exam. 4-5:50