POLI 365 State Government
Department of Political Science
University of South Carolina
Spring 2022

MWF – 12 - 12:50pm
CLHIPP 201

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Meyer-Gutbrod (Dr. MG, He/Him)
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Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-11am
Online – See Blackboard
Digitally By Appointment

Course Overview

Academic Bulletin Description
A study of state-federal relations, relations among states, state constitutions, and the structure and functions of the three branches of government. Emphasis is given to South Carolina.

Course Description
This course is a survey on state governments across the United States. We will explore the variation in state political opinion and priorities, institutions, and policy implementation, focusing on distinctions across states and between the state and national governments. In addition, we will take advantage of our proximity to the Capitol to explore the dynamics of state politics here in the state of South Carolina by inviting speakers from the state legislature, the Governor's office, the executive branch, the courts as well as local lobbying groups and news agencies.

Courses are dynamic arrangements and I reserve the right to change this syllabus at my discretion at any point during the semester.

COVID Protocols
The situation with the COVID pandemic is ongoing and evolving and will require both faculty and students to remain flexible throughout the semester. Class modality decisions were made by the University administration and are no longer the decision of each individual faculty member. We will be in person this semester, and attendance will be required. Further, the University has announced that any modality changes (going online, for example) will occur either as a response to a COVID positive cluster within a class (30%+ of students infected), resulting in a temporary shift, or as a result of a University move to shift all classes to online modalities. Expect to be in class and the course attendance policy will be enforced.

Classroom mask requirements will always reflect the University policy.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course

Learning Goals
Official Goals
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Identify patterns in subnational variation in public opinion and partisan political agendas and their implications for state governance.
- Explain key variations in state governing institutions and their implications for the political process.
- Identify the scope of state political power within the realm of policy and explain the impact of state-level public support and state institutional arrangements on policy implementation.
- Identify the major actors and agents of governance in the state of South Carolina and their roles in the policy adoption and implementation process.

My Goal for the Course
- Learn to effectively participate in American politics by navigating our existing political institutions with the goal of effecting change and making your voice heard!

Course Materials
Readings
There is only one required textbook for this course:

> **Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis**
> **Edition:** 11TH 18
> **Publisher:** SAGE
> **ISBN 13:** 9781506363622

In addition to the required textbook reading, there are additionally scholarly articles designed to engage you in active research within the discipline of political science. All of these readings can be found on Blackboard. Students should attend lectures after having read the assigned readings for that section of the course. This approach will greatly help with understanding the material in class.

Office Hours
I have a relatively small office in Gambrel Hall. Given the current state of the COVID pandemic and the size of my office, I have instead opted to continue the practice of digital office hours using Blackboard Collaborate. They are posted on blackboard under the "Office Hours" navigation heading.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

<u>Requirements</u>
Midterm Exams (2 @ 15%)
The midterms will be assigned at the end of the first two modules and will cover lectures and readings from that module.

Midterm Dates:
        Midterm Exam - 1 – **Monday, February 14**
        Midterm Exam 2 – **Monday, March 28**

Midterm Paper (1 @ 20)
The midterm paper (5-6 pages + footnotes) will be a response to a question to be circulated. Papers must be typed and double-spaced with reasonable fonts (10-12) and margins (1-1.25"). *Paper Due – Friday, April 8*

Final (25%):
The final will be scheduled in accordance with university policy and will act as the exam for the third and final module. Unlike the midterms, the final will be cumulative, covering material for the entire course.

Final Date and Time: **TBD**

Journal Responses (15%):
This course will bring in numerous speakers from all branches of state government to share their experiences and the operations within their specific branches. After each speaker, you will be required to submit a 1-page journal reflection, connecting the speakers experiences with course material. These will be due 72 hours after the guest speaker's presentation.

Class Attendance (10%):
Class attendance is mandatory for this course. For full credit, students must attend all lectures. Students are afforded 5 unexcused absences across the entire semester. I will provide lecture slides. Students are responsible for obtaining information on missed lectures either from their peers or by attending office hours. This policy applies to classes missed due to COVID related symptoms. However, if you are sick, I encourage you to stay home.

Class Schedule
<u>Module 1: Opinion and Variation</u>

State Economic Variation – Jan. 10 - Jan. 14
- Chapter 1: Socioeconomic Context – Gray (27 pgs)
- Hopkins, Daniel J. 2018. The Increasingly United States: How and Why American Political Behavior Nationalized. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. (Chapter 1)

*State Political Variation – Jan. 17 - Jan. 21 – **No Class Monday Jan. 17***

- Chapter 5: Public Opinion – (31 pgs)
- Warshaw, Christopher, and Jonathan Rodden. "How should we measure district-level public opinion on individual issues?." *The Journal of Politics* 74.1 (2012): 203-219.

Local Organized Interests – Jan. 24 - Jan. 28
***Guest Lecture: Angelia Owens– Lobbying in South Carolina ***
- Chapter 4: Interest Groups (28 pgs)
- Hertel-Fernandez, Alexander, Theda Skocpol, and Daniel Lynch. 2016. "Business Associations, Conservative Networks, and the Ongoing Republican War over Medicaid Expansion." *Journal of health politics, policy and law* 41(2): 239–86.

State Political Parties – Jan. 31 - Feb. 4
- Chapter 3: Parties (42 pgs)
- Shor, Boris, and Nolan McCarty. 2011. "The Ideological Mapping of American Legislatures." *American Political Science Review* 105(03): 530–51.

Voting, I&R, The Constitution – Feb. 7 – Feb. 11
***Guest Lecture: Charles Reid, Clerk of the South Carolina House of Representatives – The Constitutional Amendment Process ***
- Chapter 6: Initiative/Referendum (29 pgs)
- Ballotpedia: Initiative and Referendum – Review associated links: https://ballotpedia.org/Initiative_and_referendum

Midterm 1 – Wednesday, February 16

Module 2: State Institutions

Intergovernmental Relations – Feb. 14 – Feb. 18
***Monday - Feb. 14 - Guest Lecture: Jane Schuler (Chief Counsel SC House Ethics Committee) and Julia Foster (Assistant Counsel SC House Ethics Committee) – SC Ethics Act ***
***Friday – Feb. 18 - Guest Lecture: Charles Reid, Clerk of the South Carolina House of Representatives – The Structure of the State Legislature ***
- Chapter 2: Intergovermental Relations (29 pgs)
- Derthick, Martha. "American federalism: Madison's middle ground in the 1980s."Public Administration Review (1987): 66-74.

State Legislatures – Feb. 21 – Feb. 25
- Chapter 7: Legislative Politics (48 pgs)
- Makse, Todd. "Professional Backgrounds in State Legislatures, 1993-2012." State Politics & Policy Quarterly 19.3 (2019): 312-333.

Governors' Offices – Feb. 28 - March 4
- Chapter 8: Governors (40 pgs)

- Lewis, Daniel C., Saundra K. Schneider, and William G. Jacoby. "Institutional characteristics and state policy priorities: The impact of legislatures and governors." State Politics & Policy Quarterly 15.4 (2015): 447-475.

Spring Break - March 7 – March 11

The Courts – March 14 – March 18
- Chapter 9: Courts (28 pgs)
- Hall, Melinda Gann, and Chris W. Bonneau. "Mobilizing interest: The effects of money on citizen participation in state supreme court elections." American Journal of Political Science 52.3 (2008): 457-470.
- American Judicature Society. 2013. "Judicial Selection in the States: Initial Selection, Retention, and Term Length." (Review)

Bureaucracy and the Executive Branch – March 21 – March 25
- Chapter 17: Bureaucracies (25 pgs)

Midterm 2 – Monday, March 28

Module 3: State Policy
Economics I – Fiscal Policy – March 28 – April 1
- Chapter 11: Fiscal Policy (37 pgs)
- Chapter 16: Economic Development (25 pgs)

Economics II - Inequality – Apr. 4 – Apr. 8
- Chapter 18: Inequality (25 pgs)
- Wright, Gerald C., and Elizabeth Rigby. "Income inequality and state parties: Who gets represented?" State Politics & Policy Quarterly 20.4 (2020): 395-415.

Midterm Paper – Friday, April 8

Health and Environment – Apr. 11 – Apr. 15
- Chapter 12: Health and Welfare (33 pgs)
- Chapter 15: Environmental Policy (37 pgs)

Education – Apr. 18 – Apr. 22
- Chapter 13: Education (30 pgs)
- Chapter 14: Higher Education (29 pgs)

Criminal Justice – April 25
- Chapter 10: Corrections (29 pgs)

Final Exam – TBD

Course Details

Course Format

The class structure will consist of learning modules ("Course Modules"). These modules will be divided into weekly sub-modules which will include:

- A summary of that week's material, a to-do list, due dates and other notes.
- The class notes / slides in PDF format.

Assignments for each course module will include:
- A midterm exam at the end of the module. (The final exam will occur upon completion of the final module in lieu of a midterm and will be cumulative)
- Journal entries for any guest speaker in the course.

General Assignment Information

- All coursework (assignments, exams, etc.) is secured in Blackboard with a username and password.
- All online tests are secured in Blackboard with a password.

Feedback on assignments

Some of the assignments are automatically graded on Blackboard, and by the Packback platform. Other assignments will be graded as soon as possible. Specific feedback will be provided as necessary through Blackboard.

Course Communication

I will be communicating with you regarding grades and assignments. If you need to get in touch with me, the best method is via email. Generally, I will reply to emails within 24 hours during the work week and will provide feedback on assignments within 72 hours.

If you are having trouble with this course or its material, you should contact me via email to discuss the issues.

Announcements will be posted to this course whenever necessary. If there is any other information I think is important, I will send it to your email address you have in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email account works properly in order to receive email.

Below is how you check your email address in Blackboard:
- Access blackboard.sc.edu
- Click your name on the main Blackboard navigation panel on the left
- Review your email address. By default, Blackboard uses your university-issued email address
- Your email address in Blackboard coincides with your preferred university email. If you are unsure of your preferred email, check your account (myaccount.sc.edu). For more information on setting your preferred university email, please see the How To Change Your Primary University Email Address (https://scprod.service-

[now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011464)](now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011464) Knowledge Base article.

Module Schedule
All course deadlines are listed in Eastern Time Zone. Blackboard will record all deadlines in this time zone. If you are in a different time zone, plan accordingly.
Each week will begin on a Monday and will end on Friday.

Technology Requirements
The PowerPoint lecture presentations, links to articles, assignments, quizzes, and rubrics are located on the Blackboard site for the course. To participate in learning activities and complete assignments, you will need:
- Access to a working computer that has a current operating system with updates installed, plus speakers or headphones to hear lecture presentations (transcripts provided);
- Reliable Internet access and a USC email account;
- A current Internet browser that is compatible with Blackboard (Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard);
- Microsoft Word as your word processing program; and
- Reliable data storage for your work, such as a USB drive or Office365 OneDrive cloud storage.

If your computer does not have Microsoft Word, Office 365 ProPlus package is available to you free of charge and allows you to install Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, and Access on up to 5 PCs or Macs and Office apps on other mobile devices including tablets. Office 365 also includes unlimited cloud storage on OneDrive. To download Office 365 ProPlus, log into your student (University) email through a web browser, choose Settings (top right corner), and select software. If you have further questions or need help with the software, please contact the [Service Desk (https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/support/servicedesk.php)](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/support/servicedesk.php).

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
Minimal technical skills are needed in this course. All work in this course must be completed and submitted online through Blackboard. Therefore, you must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the Internet. The minimal technical skills you have include the ability to:
- Organize and save electronic files;
- Use USC email and attached files;
- Check email and Blackboard daily;
- Download and upload documents;
- Locate information with a browser; and
- Use Blackboard.

Technical Support

If you have problems with your computer, technology, IT-related questions, support, including Blackboard, please contact the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) Service Desk at (803) 777-1800 or submit an online request through the [Self-Service Portal (https://scprod.service-now.com/sp)](https://scprod.service-now.com/sp) or visit the [Carolina Tech Zone (https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/support/ctz.php)](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/support/ctz.php). The Service Desk is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time). If you are located in the Columbia, SC area, the Thomas Cooper Library at USC has computers for you to use in case you encounter computer issues/problems. If you are not located in the Columbia, SC area, most regional campuses and public libraries have computers for public use.

How to Get Help for the Packback Questions platform:
If you have ANY questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.
For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

Final Notes

Honor Code
Every student has a role in maintaining the academic reputation of the university. It is imperative that you refrain from engaging in plagiarism, cheating, falsifying your work and/or assisting other students in violating the Honor Code. Two important components of the Honor Code:

- Faculty members are required to report potential violations of the Honor Code to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- When a student is uncertain as to whether conduct would violate the Honor Code, it is their responsibility to seek clarification from the appropriate faculty member.

Your enrollment in this class signifies your willingness to accept these responsibilities and uphold the Honor Code of the University of South Carolina. Any deviation from this expectation can result in a (insert academic penalty here) and a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. You can learn more about the University's policies on academic integrity at:
https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_conduct_and_academic_integrity/index.php

Student Disability Resources
Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Student Disability Resource Center: 777-6142, TDD 777-6744, email sasds@mailbox.sc.edu, or stop by LeConte College Room 112A. All accommodations must be approved through the Student Disability Resource Center.

Diversity and Inclusion

The university is committed to a campus environment that is inclusive, safe, and respectful for all persons, and one that fully embraces the Carolinian Creed. To that end, all course activities will be conducted in an atmosphere of friendly participation and interaction among colleagues, recognizing and appreciating the unique experiences, background, and point of view each student brings. You are expected at all times to apply the highest academic standards to this course and to treat others with dignity and respect.