

**Cleveland State University**  
**Political Science 314: State Government and Politics**

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Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Mon, Wed, Fri  
or by appointment

Spring 2008  
Time: 9:45-10:50  
Mon, Wed, Fri  
Location: MC 306 A

### Course Objective

This course provides the student with a basic knowledge of how state and local governments operate in the United States. It covers topics such as federalism, state constitutions, political parties, elections, legislatures, governors, the judiciary, the structure of local governments, and of course public budgeting and service delivery. Students will gain knowledge of the various factors that affect state and local politics including population change, economic development, changing attitudes and beliefs, political culture, and globalization. The course also examines contemporary issues such as education and welfare.

### **Course Requirements, Grading, and Assignments**

**Text:** Smith, Kevin B., Greenblatt, Alan, and Michele Mariani. (2008). *Governing States and Localities*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. CQ Press: Washington DC.

Additional reading materials that pertain to the weekly topics are listed by date. These readings will be available on the university blackboard system via <http://www.csuohio.edu/elearning/blackboard>

- Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters and reserves readings prior to class. Reading topics and assignments listed are subject to change. Exam dates will change only in the event of an emergency.
- Class attendance is expected. Participation is factored into your grade and you cannot participate if you are not here. In-class projects and assignments cannot be made up without a documented compelling reason.
- Late papers will be down-graded 10% per day, including weekends.

### **Grading Policy:**

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
In-Class Assignments	20%
Paper Proposal	5%
State Analysis	20%

(100-97) (96-90) A, A- (89-87)(86-83)(82-80) B+, B, B- (79-77)(76-70) C+, C (69-60) D
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- This course covers controversial topics that will bring out strong, and varying, opinions. Learning others' views on things is an excellent way to expand ones knowledge—even when you disagree. While spirited debate and discussion is welcome, disrespectful and rude commentary is not.
- Students with Special Needs: “Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at 216-687-2015 located at UC304.” Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they have been granted an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services.

### **Academic Misconduct**

- Any form of academic dishonesty, such as cheating on examinations or plagiarism, will **NOT** be tolerated. Students are expected to know and follow the University rules on academic honesty.
- The CSU Student Handbook defines plagiarism as: Stealing and/or using the ideas or writings of another in a paper or report and claiming them as your own. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. The penalties for plagiarism are found in the Student Handbook under Academic Regulations. (Academic Regulations <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/conduct/acadregs.html>)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	
14, 16, 18 Jan	Course Overview & Introduction Introduction: They Tax Dogs in West Virginia, Don't They?	Ch 1
<i>21 January No Classes: Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>		
23, 25 Jan	Federalism: The Power Plan A Difference that Makes a Difference: States Seeing Green <i>Debating Politics: Decriminalizing Medical Marijuana</i>	Ch 2
28, 30 Jan, 1 Feb	Constitutions: Operating Instructions A Difference that Makes a Difference: State Const, Educational Equity.... <i>Debating Politics: The Unicameral Legislature</i>	Ch3
4*, 6, 8 Feb	Political Attitudes and Participation A Difference that Makes a Difference: How Some States Discourage Voters	Ch 4
<b>*Project outline Due</b>		
11, 13, 15 Feb	Parties and Interest <i>Debating Politics: Third Parties: Also-Rans or Real Contenders</i>	Ch 5
	Legislatures Policy in Practice: Outwit, Outlast, Outplay	Ch 6
<i>No Classes: President's Day February 18</i>		
20, 22 Feb	Governors and Executives A Difference that Makes a Difference: From State House to White House	Ch 7
25, 27, 29 Feb	Courts A Difference that Makes a Difference: The New Judicial Federalism A Difference that Makes a Difference: Indicting Politicians	Ch 8
<b>3 March</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
5, 7 March	Bureaucracy <i>Debating Politics: Damned if you do</i>	Ch 9
<i>No Classes: Spring Recess March 9-16</i>		
17, 19, 21 March	Local Government Local focus: Sex and the City...Charter <i>Debating Politics: Who's Got the Power?</i>	Ch 10
24, 26, 28 March	Metropolitics A Difference that Makes a Difference: Marrying a City with a County	Ch 11
31 Mar, 2, 4 Apr	Finance Policy in Practice: California's Misguided Effort the Equalize School Funding	Ch 12
7, 9, 11 April	Education Policy in Practice: Do School Board Races Improve Education Policy in Practice: How College Tuition Gets Raised	Ch 13
14, 16, 18 April	Crime and Punishment A Difference that Makes a Difference: Jury Power Policy in Practice: Is it time to Admit Defeat in the War on Drugs?	Ch 14



## PSC 314 State Analysis Paper

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Amount of Information: 15%	The topic is clearly addressed and state background information is provided in detail.	The topic is fairly clearly addressed and state background information is provided in sufficient detail.	The topic is somewhat addressed and some state background information is provided.	The topic is not well addressed; almost no state background information is provided.
Quality of Information: 20%	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Analysis: 40%	Required issues and state specific issues are fully addressed. Includes a detailed analysis of the state's official website.	Required issues and state specific issues are addressed. Includes an analysis of the state's official website.	Required issues and state specific issues are mostly addressed. Includes some analysis of the state's official website.	Required issues and state specific issues are not addressed. Doesn't include analysis of the state's official website.
<b>Paper Structure: 25%</b>				
Organization: 10%	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings. Page numbers are included.	Information is mostly organized with well-constructed paragraphs.	Information is not well organized, paragraphs are not well-constructed.	The information appears to be disorganized.
Mechanics: 10%	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. Meets the 5-6 page requirement.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors (2-3). Is just over or under 5-6 pages.	A few grammatical spelling, or punctuation errors. Does not meet pg requirements.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. (>6)
Sources: 5%	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format. Uses at least 4 outside sources	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format.	Some sources are not accurately documented.