Spring 2004

State and Local Government Syllabus

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Syllabus for
State and Local Government
GOVT 327 – Spring 2004
Dr. Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University
School of Business and Government

I. Course Description
A study of the operation of state and local government within the
American federal system with an emphasis on operating principles and practical issues.
Issues, interest groups, and institutions of American state and local government in the
framework of federalism.

II. Rationale
This course directly supports Aims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the
Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

III. Prerequisite
GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, preferably both

IV. Materials List

Purchase:
Bryce, James. The American Commonwealth [B] (excerpted in Samson text)
Hamilton, Jay, Madison. The Federalist [F] (excerpted in Samson text)
Hanson, Victor Davis. Mexifornia [H]
Janiskee, Brian P., and Ken Masugi. Democracy in California [J]
Kaplan, Robert D. An Empire Wilderness [K]
Samson, Steven Alan. State and Local Government: Lectures and Readings [S]

Reserve Desk:
Holiday Magazine. American Panorama: Portraits of 50 States by Distinguished Authors
Richardson, H. R. What Makes You Think We Read the Bills?
Zelinsky, Wilbur. The Cultural Geography of the United States, revised edition

Internet:
www.dir.yahoo.com/USStates
http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/index.html

V. Course Objectives/Requirements

1. The student will be exposed to a variety of concepts and social science
   approaches to the study of international relations.
2. The student will learn how to analyze and compare the history, geography,
   economies, governing institutions, and political behavior of contemporary nations,
   states, and international entities.
3. The student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in,
   and evaluate international political processes.

VI. Graded Requirements

1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments prior to class
   and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Textbook chapters, collateral readings,
   and current events will be the subject of class commentary and discussions.
   Students should be prepared to discuss textbook readings and current events.
3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of six
tests that are to be taken at the scheduled date and time. Students who will be
   absent due to some university sponsored activity must arrange to take the test in
the Testing Center, preferably before but no later than the day after the test is scheduled.

4. A pass/fail American map test is scheduled for February 4. The lowest test score will be dropped upon satisfactory completion.

5. Optional: Students who miss a regular test or fail a map test may take a test on Wilbur Zelinsky’s *The Cultural Geography of the United States*, all but chapter four. The lowest test score will be dropped upon completion so long as five test scores remain.

6. Honors students may fulfill their honors requirements by reading the lengthy section on state and local government in James Bryce’s *The American Commonwealth* and writing an 8-10 page summary and evaluation.

7. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

**VII. Attendance** Students are supposed to arrive on time for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician’s note), or a family emergency. Six unexcused absences may result in a failing grade. Persistent tardiness will have a detrimental effect on grades.

**VIII. Dress Code** Observe the Liberty Way. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will not be admitted to class. Caps will not be worn in class. Other than drinks, there will be no eating in the classroom.

**IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours**

School of Business and Government, DH 1031  
Phone: 434-582-2640  
E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu  
Hours: MWF 1:15-2:15; TR 8-10:30, R. 10:30-12:30; by appointment

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**January**

Wed. 14 Introduction; Maps  
Fri. 16 S. 1-2; Garreau  
Mon. 19 S. 3-4  
Wed. 21 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Book One, Chapter Five  
Fri. 23 Wilbur Zelinsky, *The Cultural History of the United States*, Chapter Four  
Mon. 26 B. 2; J. Preface, Introduction, 1  
Wed. 28 B. 36; FIRST TEST: S. 1-4; Tocqueville; Zelinsky; Garreau  
Fri. 30 F. 17, 45

**February**

Mon. 2 F. 46  
Wed. 4 B. 38; MAP TEST  
Fri. 6 S. 5-7  
Mon. 9 J. 2  
Wed. 11 J. 3; S. 10  
Fri. 13 S. 9; SECOND TEST: J. 1-3, S. 5-7, 10; F. 17, 45-46; B. 2, 36, 38  
Mon. 16 J. 4, B. 39  
Wed. 18 J. 5, S. 8  
Fri. 20 J. 6, S. 12  
Mon. 23 J. 7, S. 11; Richardson  
Wed. 25 J. 8; THIRD TEST: J. 4-7; S. 8-9, 11-12; B. 38; Richardson  
Fri. 27 S. 13-14, B. 48

**March**

Mon. 1 S. 15-16, J. 10
Wed. 3 K. 1;  
Fri. 5 K. 2-4  
Mon. 8 K. 5-6; FOURTH TEST: J. 8, 10; S. 13-16; K. 1-2; B. 48  
Wed. 10 K. 7-8  
Fri. 12 K. 9-10, 12-13  
Mon. 15 SPRING BREAK  
Wed. 17 SPRING BREAK  
Fri. 19 SPRING BREAK  
Mon. 22 K. 14, 16  
Wed. 24 K. 17-18  
Fri. 26 K. 20, 25-26  
Mon. 29 K. 26-28  
Wed. 31 K. 29-30; FIFTH TEST: K. 3-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-28

April  
Fri. 2 S. 17-19  
Mon. 5 J. 9  
Wed. 7 S. 20-21  
Fri. 9 Steven A. Peterson and Thomas H. Rasmussen, State and Local Politics, 13  
Mon. 12 S. 22-23  
Wed. 14 S. 24; H. Preface, Introduction  
Fri. 16 H. 1; SIXTH TEST: K. 29-30; S. 17-24; Peterson  
Mon. 19 H. 1-2  
Wed. 21 H. 2-3  
Fri. 23 H. 4  
Mon. 26 H. 5  
Wed. 28 H. 6, Epilogue  
Fri. 30 SEVENTH TEST: H. Entire Book

Bibliography


Malin, James C. *Indian Policy and Westward Expansion*. Bulletin of the University of Kansas Humanistic Studies, vol. II, no. 3 (November 1, 1921).


