

Moravian College

COURSE TITLE: STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS

Course and section numbers: POSC 198

Course meeting days and times: Monday & Wednesday 8:55-10:05 am

Room number: Comenius Hall Room 305

Current semester: Spring 2015

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor's name: John B. Callahan

Office hours: Wednesdays 8-8:45 a.m.

Office location: Political Science Common Room – Comenius 1st Floor

E-mail address: callahanj@moravian.edu

Telephone number: 610-216-0208

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Required texts: *Governing States and Localities*, 4th Edition, Kevin B. Smith & Alan Greenblatt

Other supplies: You will be directed to read particular current event articles.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices that characterize the operations of state and local governments in the United States. The course will focus on a range of topics that are of fundamental importance to the day-to-day quality of life experienced at the levels of government that are often deemed closest to citizens in American democracy. These topics include the value placed on state and local government in American culture, the structure of state and local government, economic development, public finance, taxation and budgeting, local and state elections, law enforcement and public safety, housing and community development, and the challenges of regionalization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Identify the methods, concepts, language and quantitative measures used to study state and local government and politics.

2. Explain and evaluate the structure and operation of the components of state and local government as they evolved over time.
3. Critically analyze in written and oral communication the diverse influences and power relationships within state and local politics, including the role of various underrepresented groups.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the role and impact of elected and appointed government officials.
5. Develop an informed appreciation of the role of voters as participants in local and regional politics

GENERAL COLLEGE POLICIES:

Class Attendance and Withdrawal: Class attendance and engagement in the learning process are critical factors in determining students' success in their courses. Moravian students are expected to attend all class sessions of courses in which they are enrolled, and are responsible for all material presented in class sessions of these courses.

Students are expected to attend all classes – too many absentees will be reflected in the instructor evaluation grade. If absences occur, it is the student's responsibility to make up whatever work has been missed. Permission to make up assignments, quizzes, and periodic tests may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Authorization to make up a final examination is given only by the Office of Academic Affairs.

During hazardous weather conditions, the College may be closed and classes canceled. Such a cancellation would be announced over the public-address system of the HUB and over radio stations WLEV-FM 100.7, WAEB-FM 104.1, WAEB-AM 790, WCTO-FM 96.1, WRFY-FM 102.5, WBYN-FM 107.5, WODE-AM 99.9, WWYY-FM 107.1, WKFB-FM 107.5, WSBG-FM 93.5, WZZO-FM 95.1, and WFMZ-TV (Channel 69), and posted on the College's website.

Students will not be graded on attendance; however, students will be graded on class participation.

Academic Honesty Policy: Moravian College expects its students to perform their academic work honestly and fairly. A Moravian student, moreover, should neither hinder nor unfairly assist other students in efforts to complete their own work. This policy of academic integrity is the foundation on which learning at Moravian is built.

The College's expectations and the consequences of failure to meet those expectations are outlined in the current Student Handbook and in the *Statement on Academic Honesty at Moravian College*, available from the Office of Academic Affairs and the Moravian College website. If a student, at any point in an academic career at Moravian, is uncertain about his or her responsibility as a scholar or about the propriety of a particular action, the instructor should be consulted.

Statement Regarding Disabilities:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

INSTRUCTOR SPECIFIC POLICIES:**Lateness to Class**

Lateness to class will impact your class participation grade.

Late Work, Missed Tests and Assignments:

Work submitted after deadlines will be penalized. Assignments submitted 1 day late will be penalized 1 letter grade. Assignments submitted 2 days late will be penalized 2 letter grades. Assignments submitted 3 or more days late will receive no credit.

Missed quizzes and exams will only be made up upon submission of a doctor's note. If you inform me prior to an exam that you will be absent from class that day, arrangements can be made to take the exam at an alternative time.

Classroom Management:

You are expected to respect others. The following are examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a reduced grade for the course: Talking Excessively, Arriving Late, Leaving Early, Sleeping in Class, Using cell phones or other electronic devices without permission.

Other Relevant Policies:

This class will be discussion oriented. Class participation will be mandatory, and will make for a better learning experience for you.

Guests speakers/lecturers should be given the same respect that you give your instructors and professors.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:

How Your Final Grade will be Determined:

First Exam: 20%

Second Exam: 20%

Writing Journal: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Class Participation/Attendance: 10%

Format for Assignments and Exams:

Class Participation Assignments: Each day students should be prepared to discuss current events/news articles that relate to the class.

Exams: Exams will include multiple choice, true/false, identification, sentence completion, and short answer/essay questions.

Writing Journal: Students will be expected to submit 10 weekly journal entries that will include homework assignments and guest speaker reflections. At the end of each chapter there are questions. At the first class of each week I will assign a few questions (3-5) to answer. We will have 6 guest speakers covering local, and state government topics. You will write a 1-2 page personal reflection outlining the key takeaway points and how they relate to topics discussed in class. Your answers should be type written and submitted to me via email no later than 4 pm each Sunday.

Grade Scale:

You will receive a grade of	A	94-100
	A-	90-93
	B+	87-89
	B	84-86
	B-	80-83
	C+	77-79
	C	74-76
	C-	70-73
	D+	67-69

D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 and below

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or a course.

This syllabus is subject to change.

COURSE CALENDAR: (dates, topics and assignments for each class meeting):

Week 1:	1/19	Introduction & Chapter 1 State & Local Government Intro
	1/21	Chapter 2 Federalism
Week 2:	1/26	Chapter 3 Constitutions
	1/28	Chapter 4 Finance
Week 3:	2/2	Guest Speaker #1
	2/4	Review 1-4
Week 4:	2/9	FIRST EXAM CHAPTERS 1-4
	2/11	Chapter 5. Political Attitudes and Participation
Week 5:	2/16	Chapter 6 Parties & Politics
	2/18	Guest Speaker #2
Week 6:	2/23	Chapter 7 Legislatures
	2/25	Chapter 8. Governors and Executives
Week 7	3/2	Guest Speaker #3
	3/4	Chapter 9 Courts
Week 8		Spring Break
Week 9	3/16	Review Chapters 5-9
	3/18	SECOND EXAM CHAPTERS 5-9
Week 9	3/23	Chapter 10 Bureaucracy
	3/25	Guest Speaker #4

Week 10	3/30	Chapter 11 Local Government
	4/1	Guest Speaker #5 (Last Day for Withdrawal)
Week 11	4/6	Chapter 12 Metropolitics
	4/8	Chapter 13 Education
Week 12	4/13	Guest Speaker #6
	4/15	Chapter 14 Crime & Punishment
Week 13	4/20	Catch Up
	4/22	Catch Up
Week 14	4/27	Wrap-Up
	4/29	Review for Final Exam
Week 15	5/4-5/8	FINAL EXAM

This syllabus is offered as a guide; however, it is subject to change throughout the semester, as necessary