

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 232.01
STATE POLITICAL SYSTEMS
3 CREDIT HOURS
SPRING SEMESTER, 2011**

242B CHSS BUILDING
MWF 9:00 A.M.- 9:50 A.M.

JIM CARTER
496F CHSS BUILDING
936-294-1461
POL_JLC@SHSU.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:00 A.M.--11:00 A.M.
or by appointment

Course Description:

This course is intended to acquaint students with the role and practice of state governments within the United States.

State governments exist in a variety of forms. Consequently, in this course we will examine the various types and structures of state governments. Students will also address the fundamental principles, generalizations, and current theories about state governments.

The history and development of state governments will be addressed; the proper role and authority of state officials will be examined; the accountability of state government to citizens will be considered; the importance of media and communication and information shared between state governments and citizens will be evaluated. The Constitutional and legal authority of state governments will also be analyzed.

Course Structure:

Lecture/discussion; multiple choice and essay exams; a written project.

Course Objectives:

- Students will gain factual knowledge (terminology), classifications, methods, trends) about state government.

- Students will learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories about state government.
- Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Required Textbooks:

Gray and Hanson, Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis, CO Press, 2007.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance requirements are compatible with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students should review that policy statement for a more detailed explanation of attendance policy.

Exams and Grading Plan:

There will be three examinations. Each exam will be worth 25% of the grade in the course. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice and essay. Cumulatively, these three tests will equal 75% of the grade in the course. Make up exams are the responsibility of the student to call attention and see that unfinished work is completed before the end of the semester.

Grades will be precisely and specifically calculated and assigned according to traditional grading scales and procedures using letter and numerical grades. A traditional ten point breakdown of grades from A to F will be followed.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty policies for this class are compatible with Academic policy Statement 810213. Students with any questions should consult that statement for more details.

ADA:

Policies for this class are compatible with the Americans for Disabilities Act, and students with any questions should work with the Professor to alleviate any difficulties.

Religious Holidays:

Religious Holidays are respected.

Instructor Evaluations:

Students will be asked to complete course/instructor evaluation forms toward the end of the semester.

Written Assignments:

Each student will be required to develop an informative journal devoted to the "politics" and government of one of the fifty states. The subject of the journal will be selected randomly at the first class meeting. The reading journal will consist of several parts. Each part will be graded separately and will be cumulatively considered at the end of the semester. Journal entries will be turned in 3 times during the semester. Each of the 3 entries will be worth 1/3 of the grade on the assignment. The journal as a whole will be worth 25% of the grade in the course.

Required Supplies:

No supplies are needed for this course unless we are talking about notebooks, pens and pencils, scantrons, etc.

Tentative Course Outline:

Wednesday, January 19, 2011	Introduction to State Government 1
Friday, January 21, 2011	Introduction to State Government 2
Monday, January 24, 2011	What is Politics?
Wednesday, January 26, 2011	What is Public Policy?
Friday, January 28, 2011	A constitutional Consideration of State Governments
Monday, January 31, 2011	Socioeconomic and Political Content of States, Ch. 1
Wednesday, February 2, 2011	Federalism, Ch. 2
Friday, February 4, 2011	Structures of State Government

Monday, February 7, 2011	Governor, Ch. 7
Wednesday, February 9, 2011	Executive Branch
Friday, February 11, 2011	Political Parties, Ch. 3
Monday, February 14, 2011	Elections, Ch. 3
Wednesday, February 16, 2011	State Demographics
Friday, February 18, 2011	State Economics
Monday, February 21, 2011	State Economics, part 2
Wednesday, February 23, 2011	Federal Money
Friday, February 25, 2011	Federal Lands
Monday, February 28, 2011	State and Local Governments
Wednesday, March 2, 2011	Interest Groups in the States
Friday, March 4, 2011	Initiative and Reform
Monday, March 7, 2011	State Legislatures
Wednesday, March 9, 2011	State Legislatures, part 2
Friday, March 11, 2011	TEST 1
March 14 – March 18	Spring Recess, No Class
Monday, March 21, 2011	Representation and Redistricting
Wednesday, March 23, 2011	State Courts
Friday, March 25, 2011	States and the Media
Monday, March 28, 2011	Women and Minorities in State Government
Wednesday, March 30, 2011	Counties

Friday, April 1, 2011	State Corrections Policy
Monday, April 4, 2011	Fiscal Policy in the States
Wednesday, April 6, 2011	State Health and Welfare
Friday, April 8, 2011	Education
Monday, April 11, 2011	Social Regulation
Wednesday, April 13, 2011	Economic Development
Friday, April 15, 2011	Infrastructure
Monday, April 18, 2011	State Politics
Wednesday, April 20, 2011	TEST 2
Friday, April 22, 2011	Good Friday, No Class
Monday, April 25, 2011	State Public Policy
Wednesday, April 27, 2011	State Competition
Friday, April 29, 2011	State Innovation
Monday, May 2, 2011	State Failure
Wednesday, May 4, 2011	State Success
Friday, May 6, 2011	Last Class Day—Review
May 9 – May 12	Final Exams

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. Cell phones and other typical disturbances should be reserved for emergencies.