

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Bluefield State College
POSC 218—SPRING 2017
Section 001
CRN: 20605
BLKBD

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Class: online 24/7
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A comparative study of American state and local governments, with emphasis on federalism, federal and state relations, interstate regulations, and structure and political process of state and local governments.

Grading Policy: 25% for completing Online Chapter Quizzes and for answering Chapter Class Discussion Questions (i.e. 12 ½% + 12 ½%=25%); 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements for your Research Paper.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]

Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]

Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]

Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]

Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.

PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.

PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.

PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.

PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 218, students should be able:

- CLO1: to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;
- CLO2: to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;
- CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;
- CLO4: understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living;
- CLO5: be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the responsibilities of state and local governments in the United States;
- CLO6: understand what is federalism and how it works;
- CLO7: know that each state operates under both its own state constitution as well as the US federal constitution;
- CLO8: be familiar with state finances and taxing policies;
- CLO9: be familiar with the horrendous tragedies as well as the notable accomplishments of human societies in their efforts to balance the principles of liberty with order;
- CLO10: have some understanding of statewide political attitudes and participation in election campaigns and their importance;
- CLO11: be cognizant of the various political parties and interest groups operating within their state;
- CLO12: understand the law-making role of state legislatures and city councils;
- CLO13: have familiarity with the state and city executive branches and the role and power of the governor, mayors, and city managers;
- CLO14: be familiar with the state judicial court system and its role;
- CLO15: understand the power and role of the state and local bureaucracy;
- CLO16: appreciate the role of local municipal governments and their associative politics;
- CLO17: understand the role of the educational system within the state;
- CLO18: be familiar with the state and local criminal justice system;
- CLO19: understand the role of the state healthcare system;
- CLO20: be cognizant of the built and natural environment and culture of the state and their importance in establishing citizens' identities;
- CLO21: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;
- CLO22: be able to understand the various conceptions of the purposes of government, the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions;
- CLO23: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to State and Local Government.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught fully online utilizing BlackBoard software. Individual work is required, such as completing online chapter quizzes and answering chapter discussion questions, submitting a research paper, and completing the online midterm and final exams, on the dates indicated.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, utilizing the tools provided by the course BlackBoard page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a **commitment** to purchase the required text, **keep up with the chapter readings**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, take the **Chapter Quizzes** and submit answers to the **Class Discussion Questions** as they arise, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at:

<http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments are submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in class is mandatory. For an online course, this means that you must regularly login to the online course page, complete chapter quizzes and answer chapter discussion questions, complete both midterm and final exams within the designated dates, and submit your research paper, etc., on the dates indicated.

Online Class Discussion Policy: The Chapter Discussion Questions will be posted on the class Discussions board at the beginning of each week. At the bottom of the chapter question, there is a hyperlink "Reply" button. Simply click this "Reply" button and submit your answer to the chapter question. **Each student must make at least one entry per each Chapter Class Discussion question.** Make sure you **simply hit the reply button on the Discussion Question which is posted to submit your answer**, so that the Subject Heading is the same as the Discussion Question, in order to get credit for that Chapter's Discussion Question. Note that each student **MUST** provide their own answer to each question. **DO NOT SUBMIT ATTACHED ANSWERS. YOU MUST TYPE YOUR REPLY IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION SO THAT ALL CAN READ IT WITHOUT OPENING UP AN ATTACHMENT. Copying from any other student's answer or simply repeating what other students have written constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with harshly.** Also, you will not be able to view other students' responses until you have submitted one of your own first. Note that, like the quizzes, you must complete all chapter discussion questions by the **Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** in order to receive 12.5% credit (i.e. half of 25% for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions).

Quiz and Test Policy: You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until the last day of classes [i.e. December 4, 2015] at 11:55 p.m. to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the date indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam.** If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates.** The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-7. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 8-12. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes: Each Chapter Quiz contains at least thirty questions and, sometimes, more. However, do not be discouraged by this, because you will NOT be graded on how many answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes but, rather, you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once. Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 12.5% credit (i.e. half for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions, for a total of 25% for Attendance) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the "Submit" button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that BlackBoard notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Communication Policy: There are no synchronous or on-site requirements for this online distance learning course. I am teaching this course from Bluefield, West Virginia, and we may not be able to meet directly in person as some of you are far from here. Nevertheless, I will login to the course regularly to answer email, respond to bulletin board questions, etc. If you have a question, email me at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required

signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

Required Texts:

Smith, Kevin B. and Alan Greenblatt. 2016. *Governing States and Localities, 5th edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE / CQ Press. [ISBN-13: 978-1-4833-7803-9], 627 pages.

*****This class is a fully online BlackBoard course and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website, including chapter PowerPoint summaries, chapter quizzes, etc.*****

Jan. 16 [Monday]: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (College Closed)

Jan. 17-20: [Tuesday: Classes begin for Spring 2017 Semester] Introduction to State and Local Government: They Tax Dogs in West Virginia, Don't They?

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 1

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 1 and answer Chapter 1 Class Discussion Question.

Jan. 23-27: Federalism: The Power Plan

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 2

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 2 and answer Chapter 2 Class Discussion Question.

Jan. 30-Feb. 3: Constitutions: Operating Instructions

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 3

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 3 and answer Chapter 3 Class Discussion Question.

Feb. 6-10: Finance: Filling the Till and Paying the Bills

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 4

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 4 and answer Chapter 4 Class Discussion Question.

Feb. 13-17: Political Attitudes and Participation: Venting and Voting

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 5

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 5 and answer Chapter 5 Class Discussion Question.

Feb. 20-24: Parties and Interest Groups: Elephants, Donkeys, and Cash Cows

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 6

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 6 and answer Chapter 6 Class Discussion Question.

Feb. 27-Mar. 3: Legislatures: The Art of Herding Cats & Governors and Executives: There Is No Such Thing as Absolute Power

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Chs. 7 & 8

Assignment: Complete Quizzes for Chapters 7 & 8 and answer Chapters 7 & 8 Class Discussion Questions.

Mar. 6-12: Midterm Exam Online [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on March 12, 2017.]

Mar. 13 [Monday]: Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar

Mar. 13-17: Spring Break (no classes; college closed)

Mar. 20-24: Courts: Turning Law into Politics

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 9

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 9 and answer Chapter 9 Class Discussion Question.

Mar. 27-31: Bureaucracy: What Nobody Wants but Everybody Needs

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 10

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 10 and answer Chapter 10 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 3-7: Local Government: Function Follows Form

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 11

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 11 and answer Chapter 11 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 7: Last Day to Withdraw from course/college with a grade of “W”

Apr. 10-14: Metropolitcs: The Hole Problem of Government

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 12

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 12 and answer Chapter 12 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 17-21: Education: Reading, Writing, and Regulation

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 13

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 13 and answer Chapter 13 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 24-28: Crime and Punishment & Health and Welfare: State, Heal Thyself!

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Chs. 14 & 15

Assignment: Complete Quizzes for Chapters 14 & 15 and answer Chapters 14 & 15 Class Discussion Questions.

April 30 [Sunday]: [Research Papers Due]

Assignment: Research Papers Due today. Submit a copy of your Research Papers to Turnitin. Click on the Turnitin button on the course BlackBoard page for submission instructions. As well, you must submit a hard copy of your Research Paper to me in class. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu or to the course BlackBoard page.

May 1-5: Environment and Climate Change: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

Readings: Smith and Greenblatt, Ch. 16

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter 16 and answer Chapter 16 Class Discussion Question.

May 5 [Friday]: [Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.]

Assignment: Complete all readings, quizzes, and chapter discussion questions.

May 6-14: Final Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on "Final Exam". You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on May 14, 2017.]

May 15 [Monday]: Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.