

<b>Course</b>	POLT 1750 State and Local Government	Fall 1, 2009
<b>Instructor</b>	Name: Steve Basinger Phone: 660-441-5526 Email: Basinger.steve@gmail.com	
<b>Course Description</b>	Studies the politics, organization, and activities of state and local governments in the United States.	
<b>Incoming Competencies (Prerequisites)</b>	Student should be admitted to a Webster University undergraduate program.	
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve a fundamental understanding of constitutional and organizational arrangements found in state and local governments.</li> <li>• To develop an understanding of the political processes involved in the operation of state and local governments.</li> <li>• To achieve an understanding and appreciation of the issues and conflicts faced by political leaders in states and cities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Course Materials</b>	Thomas Dye and Susan Macmanus, Politics in States and Communities, (13 <sup>th</sup> edition), Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2009  Text(s) may be obtained from MBS Direct Books at 1-800-325-3252 or <a href="http://www.mbsdirect.net">www.mbsdirect.net</a> . Checks and credit cards accepted.	
<b>Course Grading</b>	<p><b>The UNDERGRADUATE catalog provides these guidelines and grading options:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A, A-</b> superior work in the opinion of the instructor</li> <li>• <b>B+, B, B-</b> good work in the opinion of the instructor</li> <li>• <b>C+, C, C-</b> satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor</li> <li>• <b>D+, D</b> passing, but less than satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor</li> <li>• <b>I</b> incomplete work in the opinion of the instructor</li> <li>• <b>ZF</b> An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course</li> <li>• <b>F</b> unsatisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor; no credit is granted</li> <li>• <b>W</b> withdrawn from the course</li> <li>• <b>IP</b> course in progress</li> <li>• <b>NR</b> not reported for the course</li> <li>• <b>Z</b> a temporary designation given by the registrar indicating that the final grade has not been submitted by the instructor. When the final grade is filed in the Office of the Registrar, that grade will replace the Z.</li> </ul>	
<b>Policy Statements</b>	University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:	

## **Academic Honesty**

The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.

## **Drops and Withdrawals**

Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.

## **Special Services**

If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.

## **Disturbances**

Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.

## **Student Assignments Retained**

From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.

## Contact Hours for this Course

It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled.

A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.

Classes are to be considered as important business appointments and every effort should be made to make them. However, one or two absences should not prove to be an insurmountable obstacle. If you do miss a class be sure and check with another member of the class to get notes, any assignments, or schedule changes that may have been made. Note that you will receive a participation grade for every class except the first, the last and examination periods and every class you miss reduces your opportunity for participation and could effect your grade adversely. Except for assignments that are specifically identified as group assignments all your work is to be your own. If you are discovered to have used any inappropriate help you will be considered to be in violation of the university's academic dishonesty policy and will be given a failing grade in the class. Additionally, a recommend may be made that you not be allowed to continue your education at Webster University.

### Note

This syllabus may be revised at the discretion of the instructor without prior notification or consent of the student.

### Assignments:

1. **Quizzes:** Will be in the True or False format. Each quiz will have ten questions valued at half a point each. (30 points)
2. **State profile paper:** Select a state (not Missouri or Kansas). Submit a profile of the state consisting of two full type pages, 12 font, double spaced, and time new roman. Utilize three sources, citing the sources in the body of the paper. Prepare a coversheet and a bibliography page (MLA or APA). Be prepared to give a short presentation on the state selected. (5 points)
3. **MO or KS article:** Each week assigned, print out and bring to class an article on state or city government issues taking place in either MO or KS. (6 points)
4. **Weekly state profile presentation:** Using your notes, give the class a weekly update on government issues in the state you have selected (not MO or KS). (6 points)
5. **Final/Midterm:** Midterm will cover chapters 1-8 and the Final chapters 9-16. The exams will be in the multiple choice format. There will be forty four questions on each exam valued at half a point each. (22 points each)
6. **Participation:** Students will have the ability to earn eight participation points. (8 points)

Quizzes/6:	30 points
State profile paper/1:	5 points
MO or KS article/7:	7 points
Weekly state profile presentation/6:	6 points
Midterm exam/1:	22 points
Final exam/1:	22 points
Participation/8:	8 points
TOTAL:	100 points

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 69-60
- F 59-0

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/25	Syllabus. Chapters 1 & 2.
9/1	Quiz chapters 1 & 2. State profile paper due. Article on MO or KS. Chapters 3, 4 & 5.
9/8	Quiz chapters 3, 4 & 5. Article on MO or KS. State profile. Chapters 6 & 7.
9/15	Quiz chapters 6 & 7. Chapter 8. Quiz chapter 8. Midterm chapters 1-8. Article on MO or KS. State profile.
9/22	Chapters 9 & 10. Article on MO or KS. State profile.
9/29	Quiz chapters 9 & 10. State profile. MO or KS article. Chapters 11, 12 & 13.
10/6	Quiz chapters 11, 12 & 13. State profile. MO or KS article. Chapters 14 & 15.
10/13	Quiz chapters 14 & 15. Chapter 16. Quiz chapter 16. Final chapters 9-16. State profile. MO or KS article.