

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, <u>State and Local Politics</u> , 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

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