

Political Science 207-505 TTh (9:35) & 507 TTh (12:45)
Spring, 2008
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Webpage for grades: http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/faculty/byname/?id=23&course_id=681

State and Local Politics

Please Note: If you are taking courses at Blinn, their final exam schedule often conflicts with that at Texas A&M. Such a conflict is not an excuse for failure to take the POLS 207 exam as scheduled. If you have a conflict, you need to drop the Blinn course.

Textbook: Luttbeg, Norman R., *Comparing the States and Communities* 6th Eddie Bowers Publishers: 2004. Note: Only Loupot's is sure to have this book. The 6th edition is substantially different from earlier editions because of new 2000 Census data.

Reading assignments:

Jan.	15	Luttbeg, Chs. 1, 2, and 3	Difference Between States and Ideas About Why They Exist
	29	Luttbeg, Chs. 4 and 5	
Feb.	5		First Examination—the large gray scantron will be needed for exams
	7	Luttbeg, Chs. 6 and 7	Involving the Public in Government
	21	Luttbeg, Ch. 8	Local Government: That Closest to the People?
March	4		Second Examination
	6	Luttbeg, Chs. 9 and 10	The Legislative and Executive Branches of State Government
	10-14		Spring Break
	27	Luttbeg, Ch. 11	Judicial Branch of State Government
April	8		Third Examination
	10	Luttbeg, Chs. 12 and 13	Making State Policy and Why We Never Seem to Solve Problems
	22	Luttbeg, Ch. 14	
	24	Last day of class	
May	2		207-505 Exam 12:30-2:30 in Chem. 100
	7		207-507 Exam 8-10 am in HECC 207

While no attendance will be taken and most of the material in lecture is from the book, your attendance is strongly suggested. I will be covering difficult points and will respond to questions. Since there is much material in the text, the lecture also suggests what part of the material I believe to be most important. Finally, for those of you who will have trouble with the course, I am unresponsive to those who do not attend class.

Each examination includes 50 questions over the material since the last examination. All count equally--one fourth of your grade. Examples of the types of questions on the first examination are listed below. These are examples and may or may not be on the actual examination. When the average grade in the class is below 75 percent correct, a curve will be used for that test. No overall additional curve will be used. Grades will be assigned on a straight, 90 % or better is an A and so on, basis. If you are having difficulties, I urge you to see me early for advice on how to study better for the examinations. **Everyone who gets a “F” or a “D” on the first examination must see me after class or during office hours.** My office hours are TTH 2:15-3:30 or by appointment. Being located in extreme west campus means that it may be better to see me before or after class, by email, or by telephone during office hours.

Please Note: I expect students to act as adults in class. No cheating on examinations, no talking in class, no cell phones ringing in class, and no rude behavior relative to other students and me are among these expectations. I will treat you as adults; act like you are.

At the end of each chapter there are fill in the blank questions. These were **NOT** intended for this size of course and may or may not be useful in studying. I rather would encourage writing down what you find to be the most important points in each chapter.

Note: Students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.

Sample Questions

1. In Chapter 1 we consider how urban or metropolitan a state is. We conclude that:
 - a. Americans are fairly evenly distributed across the land with little urban concentration
 - b. only the northeastern part of the United States is urban or metropolitan
 - c. most northern states are metropolitan
 - d. rural (non-metropolitan) states can be found in the north and in the South
2. As judged by who won each state in the 2004 presidential election, which is true?
 - a. Bush won all states with about the same percentage of the vote
 - b. there is not pattern to which states vote Republican or Democrat
 - * c. some states tend to vote Democrat and others Republican
 - d. wealthy states like Connecticut vote Republican
3. The wealth of a state is largely determined by:
 - a. the personal wealth of its residents
 - b. whether it has many material resources that can be taxed
 - c. efficient government allowing it to save revenues
 - d. a public that demands few governmental services
4. The probability of being murdered is:
 - a. equally distributed across the United States
 - b. lowest in the South
 - c. lowest in northern rural states
 - d. highest in New York , California, and other industrialized states
5. Which government, if any, could be said to be active in the “no government” period?
 - a. federal
 - b. state
 - c. municipal
 - d. county