Instructor Information:
Kendall D. Deas, Ph.D
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
Honors College; (Faculty Fellow)
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Office Hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays (1pm-2pm); (By Appointment)

Course Description:
This course will cover the role of state and local governments in the American federal system. An emphasis will be placed on the following core components: (1.) The constitutional division of powers between the federal government and the state governments, and the evolution of that relationship over time; (2.) The systems of local government established by each of the 50 states and the evolution of those systems over time; (3.) The variations that exist among the 50 states in terms of the degrees of home rule authority granted by the states to their different types of local governments; (4.) The main state government institutions and their roles in (a.) the making and implementation of public policy, and (b.) the reconciliation of conflicts and demands among and between competing interests; (5.) The role of states (and local governments in some states) in the operation of major federally-defined but jointly-financed and state-administered programs such as Medicaid and most recently the Affordable Care Act. While this is a course in state and local government in the United States generally, we will use issues, concerns, and proposals that have arisen in the state of South Carolina as a basis for comparative analysis.
Required Course Texts:


- **Note:** Course textbooks are available for purchase at the main campus bookstore (Barnes & Nobles; 160 Calhoun Street). There will also be peer reviewed articles you will be assigned to read periodically and these will be posted in the course Oaks site by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

*Students who complete this course should be able to accomplish the following:*

1. Develop a good understanding of the political and governmental institutions and processes through which the residents of the 50 states govern themselves.

2. Become familiar with the major sources of information that are available regarding the workings of state and local government institutions and processes.

3. Be able to understand and explain current developments involving state and local governmental institutions and processes in their proper theoretical and historical context.

4. Develop an analytical, social science disposition toward state and local politics.

5. Students will be able to use appropriate tools and search strategies for identifying particular types of information specific to the discipline; Evaluate the relevance, quality, and appropriateness of different sources of information; Recognize and classify the information contained within a bibliographic citation; Access and use information ethically and legally. This will be assessed with a source identification and source relevance activity that will be part of an embedded librarian session for the course.

6. Students will be able to use appropriate critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques in appropriate disciplinary contexts and make connections across disciplines and/or relevant experiences.
Course Objectives:

This course is an overview of state and local governments in the American federal system and their political institutions, concepts, and their development. The goal is to familiarize students with the goals and tools of state and local governments, to present them with possibilities for participation, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects debates over the goals and tools of state and local governments to contemporary political events, policies, and debates. The goals or objectives of this course are to achieve the following:

- Apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions.
- Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of state and local governments in the American federal system.
- Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of state and local governments in the American federal system through the application of political concepts and ideas.
- Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes at state and local government levels and nationally.
- Develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward state and local politics.

Course Prerequisites:

An understanding of the basic elements of American democracy (including the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances) is critical to success in this class.

Course Assignments:

It is preferred that all writing assignments be submitted in the Oaks dropbox for this course. However, if students experience a complication with the system, it will also be acceptable to submit assignments through campus email or submit a hardcopy to the instructor.
Assignment 1: Discussion Prompts

Students will respond to 5 discussion prompts throughout the course. The discussion prompts will be questions for analysis that extend from the weekly readings and class discussions on state and local politics. These written assignments should be about 300-500 words in length (1.5 or double spaced; 11 or 12 point font). They should be completed in a word document and uploaded into an assignment dropbox for the course. If there are complications, they can also be emailed or a hardcopy can be submitted to the instructor. The due dates for these assignments are indicated in the syllabus but can be changed at the discretion of the course instructor; (100 pts).

Assignment 2: Political Issue Research Memo

Students will research and identify a political or domestic policy issue or problem of concern relevant to discussions in the current political environment and related to state and local politics and write a 10-15 page political issue research memo that 1.) identifies the issue of concern and provides some brief historical overview, 2.) explains why it is a significant policy issue of concern, and 3.) provides some type of policy prescription or plan to solve the political/policy problem. The memos should be (1.5 or double-spaced; 11 or 12 point font). As there is no final exam for this course, the assignment will be due the day of the scheduled final exam for the course by the College; (100 pts).

Assignment 3: Political Topics Presentation

Each student will be responsible for presenting some research on a relevant political topic related to state and local politics within one of the 50 states. These presentations are to be done in small groups of 3 to 5 students and groups should select different states. These will be brief presentations (10 minutes in length) and can be delivered by using powerpoint, Prezi, or distributing a class outline and delivered orally. Students will be asked to identify a topic of interest and state and indicate their selection on a sign-up sheet to be distributed by the instructor by February 1st. We will have student presentations throughout the course of the spring semester; (100 pts).

Assignment 4: Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be 2 written essay responses. Students will be given 4 essay questions of which they are to select only 2 to answer worth 50 points each. There will be a short review session for the midterm exam; (100 pts).
Course Requirements:

A. Completion of all assignments on a timely basis including completion of all assigned readings prior to the class at which those readings are scheduled for discussion.

B. Monitoring on a regular basis the following: (1.) A newspaper (or comparable news service) available online that covers state and local government developments in South Carolina on a regular basis; (2.) A newspaper (or comparable news service) available online that covers state and local government developments in the state you will cover in your group presentation on a regular basis; (3.) Governing magazine’s website: http://www.governing.com/

C. Participation in class discussions on the basis of your reading about your group presentation state, your research related to your political issue research memo, and items A and B above.

Writing Lab:

I encourage students to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library; First Floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses. They offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 1-843-953-5635 or visit http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken for this course. All students are expected to attend class with due diligence. Students who miss more than 4 classes will be dropped from this course. Absences will only be excused with a medical note or personal/family emergencies, a formal discussion with the instructor, and documenting the absence. Students with a legitimate, documentable reason may require an absence memo by bringing documentation to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students at 67 George Street, where the student may fill out a brief form with a schedule of missed class/classes, dates missed and the names of the appropriate professors and advisor. There is a class participation grade and missing classes will negatively impact this area of assessment for the course. No texting or use of social media in class and excessive use will result in points deducted from the final grade.

Honor System:

All students are expected to comply with the honor code of the College of Charleston. Violation of the honor code, in particular plagiarism will result in a grade of XF for the course. Ignorance of the standards, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures are not acceptable reasons for violation of the College’s academic integrity standards.
**Americans with Disabilities (ADA):**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of any accommodations needed for the course. We are here to work with you and invite you to inform us of any accommodations you need. You can also contact the Office of Disability Services at (843)-953-1431.

**Campus Closue and Inclement Weather:**

If the College of Charleston closes and members of the community are evacuated due to inclement weather, students are responsible for taking course materials with them in order to continue with course assignments consistent with instructions provided by faculty. In cases of extended periods of institution-wide closure where students have relocated, instructors may articulate a plan that allows for supplemental academic engagement despite these circumstances.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Issue Memo</td>
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<td>Political Topic Presentation</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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**Total Points-(500 pts)**
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Course Reading and Assignment Schedule: (Note: Specific course reading will be assigned daily in class)

**Week 1-January 8th and 10th**
- Course introductions
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 1: State and Local Governments: New Directions
- Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 1: Making a Case for the States

**Week 2-January 13th, 15th, and 17th**
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 1: State and Local Governments: New Directions
- Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 1: Making a Case for the States

**Week 3-January 22nd and 24th**
- January 20th; MLK Day; (no class)
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 2: Federalism and the States: Sorting Out Roles and Responsibilities
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 2: States and the Federal System
• **Discussion Prompt 1 Due: January 24th (midnight)**

**Week 4-January 27th, 29th, and 31st**
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 3: State Constitutions: The Fundamental Rules of State Government
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 3: The Policymaking Environment in the States

**Week 5-February 3rd, 5th, and 7th**
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 4: Citizen Participation and Elections: Engaging the Public in Government
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 4: The Policymaking Capacity of State Governments

**Week 6-February 10th, 12th, and 14th**
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 5: Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Campaigns: Influencing Public Policy
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 5: Public Policy and the Role of the States in a Changing Federal System
• **Discussion Prompt 2 Due: February 12th (midnight)**

**Week 7-February 17th, 19th, and 21st**
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 6: State Legislatures: The People’s Representatives
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 6: Elections and Political Parties

**Week 8-February 24th, 26th, and 28th**
• Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 7: Governor’s Powers, Politics, and Executive Leadership
• Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 7: State Fiscal Systems
• **Friday February 28th; (Midterm Exam)**
Week 9-March 2nd, 4th, and 6th

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 8: Public Administration: Budgeting and Service Delivery
- Moncrief & Squire; Chapter 8: Why States Matter Now
- Discussion Prompt 3 Due: March 6th (midnight)

Week 10-March 9th, 11th, and 13th

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 9: The Judiciary vs. Accountability

Week 11-March 16th, 18th, and 20th

- Spring Break; (no class)

Week 12-March 23rd, 25th, and 27th

Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 10: Local Government: Types and Functions

- Discussion Prompt 4 Due: March 25th (midnight)

Week 13-March 30th, April 1st and 3rd

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 11: Local Leadership and Governance: Continuity and Change

Week 14-April 6th, 8th, and 10th

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 12: State-Local Relations: Fifty Different Systems
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 13: Taxing and Spending: Where the Money Comes from and Where It Goes
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 14: Economic Development: Competing for Growth
- Discussion Prompt 5 Due: April 10th (midnight)
Week 15-April 13th, 15th, and 17th

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 15: Education Policy: Reading, Writing, and Reform
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 16: Criminal Justice: Cops and Corrections
- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 17: Social Welfare and Health Care Policy: Addressing Poverty and Sickness

Week 16-April 20th and 22nd

- Bowman & Kearney; Chapter 18: Environmental Policy: Regulation and Innovation
- April 23rd: (Reading Day; Political Issue Research Memo Due during final exam period)

Note: There is no final exam for this course. Students will submit their political issue research memo in lieu of a final examination on the day finals are scheduled by the College for this course.