

Political Science 155-99—Rader
State and Local Government
3 credit hours
Henry Ford Community College
Fall 2010
Online Class

Instructor: Dr. Eric W. Rader

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Office hours: Monday—1:30-3:15 p.m.; Wednesday—2-4 p.m.; TR—12:35-2:00 p.m.; and by appointment

Required Text and Materials:

Text: State and Local Government (7th edition), (2008), by Ann O'M. Bowman and Richard C. Kearney. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Course Description (Course catalog):

This course examines political institutions and processes in the fifty states, including their cultures and constitutions, as well as the public policies of state governments in areas such as education, social welfare, and the environment. State and Local governments are studied using Michigan and Metropolitan Detroit as a basis for comparison. This course is appropriate as a lead-in for those interested in the fields of political science, public administration, and criminal justice.

Goal Statement

Major Core Course Objectives (Measurable):

A student who successfully completes Political Science 155 should be able to:

- Categorize state constitutions among the fifty states.
- Describe the models of judicial selection.
- Describe Federalism and the relationship between the states and the federal government.
- Compare and contrast the part-time legislature versus the professional legislature and its relationship with the executive branch of the state.
- Compare and contrast the powers of State Governors.
- Describe City Charters and different structures of Local Government.
- Describe bureaucratic politics in States and Communities.

- Describe the Politics of Fiscal Policy at the State and Local Level.
- Explain the development of policies for Criminal Justice, Education, Social Welfare, Health and Environment at the State and Local Level.
- Compare and contrast Michigan’s culture, policies, constitution, and governmental structure with other state and local governments.
- Compare and contrast the political and governmental relationship between the city and suburbs within major metropolitan areas (e.g. Metro Detroit).
- Explain the financing and activities of campaigns and political parties at the state level.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and/or plagiarizing will not be tolerated in this class. Please refer to the HFCC catalog, p. 258 of the HFCC Catalog, for the College’s policies on this issue. **A student caught cheating and/or plagiarizing will automatically fail the course; this will be noted in the student’s academic record with the College.** This policy applies to ALL work submitted to the instructor for grading, including discussion board posts, critical thinking assignments, exams, and any other written work for which a student wants a grade. If you have any questions about academic honesty, please contact the instructor. There is **Zero Tolerance** for academic dishonesty in this class.

Class Policies:

While this is an online class, there are still a number of class policies that students are expected to follow:

1. Online Attendance—while students will not attend classes on campus, everyone is expected to log-in to the U-Compass site on a regular basis throughout the week. Please do not wait until the end of the week to complete assignments.
2. In all online interactions with each other, students are expected to treat each other with courtesy. Students should not engage in “flaming,” whereby other students are attacked online with angry words. All online postings should be courteous and avoid angry or foul language; please be civil.
3. Please pay attention to proper spelling, grammar, and formatting of all correspondence online, whether in discussion board postings or in e-mail contact with the instructor. Please do not use ALL CAPS when typing messages—this is considered to be “yelling” and is not acceptable in online correspondence.
4. Students should respect each other’s privacy in all postings online—all online interactions should relate to course material only.
5. HFCC has a computer use policy—please locate it at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/resources/policy.htm>. This policy applies to this class—please read the policy and become familiar with it.

Grading Policy:

There are several components to your final grade in this course. I will take into account individual improvement in scores over the course of the semester. **Students who do not officially withdraw from the course and do not complete the requirements for the course will be assigned a grade of “E.”** The **last day** you may withdraw from the course is

November 11, 2010. A DR grade will not be assigned after November 11, so it's important to decide before that date if you wish to drop the class. Only the student can withdraw from the class; at the end of the semester, the instructor must assign a grade to any student listed on the class roster.

The following is the official HFCC policy on withdrawing from a course:

“Schedule adjustments may be made during the add and drop period up until the official count date without academic penalty. The student’s transcript will not record any such changes made before the official state count date. A student may officially drop a class without penalty until the end of the tenth week during the fall and winter semesters and the fifth week during the spring and summer semesters. A DR will be recorded on the student’s transcript. If a student stops attending a class without officially withdrawing from the class, the instructor may record either an E or DR grade.”

COMPONENTS OF FINAL GRADE

Exams—Worth 300 points

Four exams will be given during the term; each exam is worth 75 points. Each exam covers approximately 4 chapters in the book. Exams will **include 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Each question will be worth 1.5 points.**

Exams will be made available in the “Examination” section of U-Compass. Each exam is timed—students are allowed 45 minutes to complete the exam; 2 points will be deducted from the student’s grade for each minute spent completing the exam past the allowed time. Students will only be allowed to log-in once to an exam—please be ready to take the exam when you log-in. Note—make sure your pop-up blocker is turned “off” before you start an exam. As the time limit for an exam approaches, a small warning box will pop-up to alert students to the amount of time remaining. If your pop-up blocker is on, you will get bumped out of the exam and will not be able to log-in again. Please use Microsoft Internet Explorer as your web browser when completing exams; other web browsers have compatibility issues with the U-Compass exam format.

Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) Released on Friday evening, September 24, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, September 27, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8) Released on Friday evening, October 22, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, October 25, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Exam 3 (Chapters 9-10 and 12-13) Released on Friday evening, November 19, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, November 22, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Exam 4 (Chapters 14-16) released on Tuesday, December 14, @ 12:00 Noon; due Friday, December 17, @ 5:00 p.m. ET.

PACKETS

The assignments for each topic are contained within an online packet, available through the U-Compass system in the “Course Materials” section, on the left-hand side of the page—there is one packet per topic. The topics can be found in the course outline at the end of the syllabus.

The following will be included within each packet:

1. Instructions for the week—please read through this document before proceeding with the rest of the packet. Your reading assignment is included in the instructions.
2. Lecture for the topic—please read this carefully, as it contains much of the information you’ll need to answer discussion board and critical thinking questions, and to answer exam questions.
3. Discussion board question for the topic.
4. Critical thinking question for ten of the topics throughout the semester.
5. Web links—includes websites that are relevant to the topic of the week. You are not required to go to the site; they are for your information.

Discussion Board Questions—Worth 105 points

A discussion board question will be posted for each topic when the packet for that topic is released. Each student must post **one answer** to the question (worth up to 4 points), and **one response** to another student’s post (worth up to 3 points). There will be a total of 15 discussion board questions, totaling 105 points (7 points x 15=105). Each posting should be at least 3 sentences in length. Responses should be at least 2-3 sentences in length. In order to receive full credit (7 points) for this assignment, students must post both an initial response to the question and a response to another student.

Points will be assigned as follows for **posts**:

- 4-3 Complete answer to the question or response—student answers each part of the question , with explanation.
- 2- Partial answer to the question or response—student answers only part of the question; partial explanation.
- 1- Minimal answer to the question or response—students answers in a way that doesn’t really address the question or response; no explanation of answer.
- 0- No answer or one that is not appropriate for the question; offensive post.

Responses to other students must be at least 2-3 sentences in length and must directly address the other student’s post:

- 3—Direct reference to other student’s post, with explanation for answer (not simply “agree” or “disagree”)
- 2—Partial response to other student, with minimal explanation
- 1—Partial or minimal response to other student with no explanation
- 0—Off-topic or one-word answer, or offensive post.

Due Dates for Discussion Board Assignments—

The discussion board responses for both topics each week are due the following **Mondays**, by **9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27
October 4
October 11
October 18
October 25
November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29
December 6
December 13

Critical Thinking Questions—Worth 100 points

Students will answer 10 critical thinking questions throughout the semester. These questions will cover selected topics. There will not be a critical thinking question for every topic, so please pay attention to the instructions for each packet to see if there is a critical thinking question included. Each question is worth 10 points. Your answer should be at least 200 words in length. Critical thinking points will be assigned based on the following rubric:

Full and complete answer that addresses each part of the question, with explanation—9-10 points.

Partial answer to each part of the question, with partial explanation—length and quality will determine the number of points—5-8 points.

Partial answer to each part of the question, with no explanation—length will determine number of points—2-4 points.

Minimal or no answer, with no explanation; off-topic or offensive answer—0-1 points.

Due Dates for Critical Thinking Assignments—

The critical thinking responses are due the following **Mondays**, by **9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

September 13
September 20
October 4
October 11
October 18
November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
December 6

Grading scale

Total Points—Letter Grade

452-505 (90-100%)—A

402-451 (80-89%)—B

351-401 (70-79%)—C

301-350 (60-69%)—D

0-300 (0-59%)—E (Failing)

Online and Technical Support for U-Compass

The Instructional Technology Department at HFCC can provide assistance to any student who has questions regarding U-Compass or the technical requirements of online access to the course. Please contact 313-845-9633 for more information.

Computer Labs on Campus

A good, reliable Internet connection is required to access all materials for this class. Open computers are available in the Media Center on the 2nd Floor of HFCC's Eshelman Library. Please contact the Media Center directly for further information on hours and the availability of open computing: (313) 845-6386. If your home Internet access is limited or slow, you may want to consider taking advantage of the Media Center when completing exams, since there are limits on time and log-ins for all exams. Exam grades will be based on the exam as submitted by the student, even if not all the questions are answered; points will be deducted when students go beyond the allotted time for each exam.

Accommodations for Special Needs

If students need an academic accommodation, please advise the instructor. Make an appointment as soon as possible to verify eligibility through Assisted Learning Services—313-845-9617.

English Language Institute (ELI)

The English Language Institute provides services and assistance to students for whom English is a second language. For more information on the ELI, go to this URL:

http://www.hfcc.edu/programs/english_language_institute/default.asp

Course Outline

Please read the assigned chapter prior to completing the contents of the packet for each topic. Note—each week's packets will be released on Tuesday morning.

Week 1 (August 26)—Open “Getting Started” packet; Chapter 1—New Directions for State and Local Government; Assignments due Monday, September 6, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 2—(September 7)—Chapter 2—Federalism and the States; Assignments due Monday, September 13, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 3—(September 14)—Chapter 3—State Constitutions; Assignments due Monday, September 20, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 4—(September 21)—Chapter 4—Citizen Participation and Elections; Assignments due Monday, September 27, 9:00 p.m. ET.

Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) Released on Friday evening, September 24, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, September 27, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Week 5—(September 28)—Chapter 5—Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Campaigns; Assignments due Monday, October 4, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 6—(October 5)—Chapter 6—State Legislatures; Assignments due Monday, October 11, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 7—(October 12)—Chapter 7—Governors; Assignments due Monday, October 18, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 8—(October 19)—Chapter 8— Public Administration; Assignments due Monday, October 25, 9:00 p.m. ET.

Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8) Released on Friday evening, October 22, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, October 25, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Week 9—(October 26)—Chapter 9—The Judiciary; Assignments due Monday, November 1, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 10—(November 2)—Chapter 10—The Structure of Local Government; Assignments due Monday, November 8, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 11—(November 9)—Chapter 12—State-Local Relations; Assignments due Monday, November 15, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 12—(November 16)—Chapter 13—State and Local Finance; Assignments due Monday, November 22, 9:00 p.m. ET.

Exam 3 (Chapters 9-10 and 12-13) Released on Friday evening, November 19, @ 5:00 p.m. ET; due Monday evening, November 22, @ 11:59 p.m. ET.

Week 13—(November 23)—Chapter 14—Economic Development; Assignments due Monday, November 29, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 14—(November 30)—Chapter 15—Education Policy; Assignments due Monday, December 6, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 15—(December 7)—Chapter 16—Criminal Justice; Assignments due Monday, December 13, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

Week 16—(December 14)—

Exam 4 (Chapters 14-16) released on Tuesday, December 14, @ 12:00 Noon; due Friday, December 17, @ 5:00 p.m. ET. Semester ends December 18, 2010