

POS 6158 - 52270
Politics and Policy in Local Government (Summer A)
Monday and Wednesday 6:10pm – 9:40pm
Building 2, Room 2219

Dr. Michael Binder

Office Hours: 5:00pm to 6:00pm Monday and Wednesday or by appointment

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Objectives:

The course examines the political power structures of local governments and the related policy outcomes in terms of resource allocation and service delivery. The material also focuses on the consequences of these issues for public administrators.

Learning Outcomes:

Communication

- Possess the verbal and writing skills needed to communicate clearly and effectively, make persuasive, professional presentations and convey information essential to the discipline in an orderly and understandable manner.

Content

- Understand the various forms of structure in government and relate specific governmental forms to political and policy outcomes.
- Understand the role of public policy, the policy-making process, the political and environmental factors which affect its development and its effects on political events, actors, and institutions.

Critical Thinking

- Be able to effectively apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to political issues.

Required Text:

Donovan, Todd, Christopher Mooney and Daniel Smith. *State and Local Politics Institutions and Reform*. 3rd Edition. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning (referred to as **DMS**)

Course Resources:

Course resources such as the syllabus, assignments, selected readings, etc. are available on Blackboard. Not all functions of Blackboard will be used for the course, but Blackboard does contain readings and other information about this course and is used extensively. Communications over Blackboard are official course communications and you are responsible to for checking the email associated with Blackboard.

Graded Assignments:

Be sure to include your name on everything you hand in.

1. Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class. The value of being in class cannot be overestimated. This class is designed to be interactive and thus your attendance and preparation for the class is extremely important. If you miss a class you are responsible for getting the notes from another student--

-not emailing the professor asking if you missed anything important. Also, you cannot participate in class discussions if you do not attend. Attendance will count for up to 10 points of your total available points in the course.

2. Participation: This is a graduate seminar, not an undergraduate lecture course. Your participation, discussion and contribution will determine the success of the class and participation will account for up to 20 points of your total available points in the course.
3. Précises: There are many scholarly articles that we will discuss this session, each student is required to write and present TWO précises. You will upload your précis to Blackboard no later than 2:00pm on the day of class and also bring in copies to hand out in class. Each précis is worth 10 points for a total of up to 20 of the available points in the course. Failure to upload or bring in hard copies will result in a zero.
4. Chapter Highlights: Each student is responsible for summarizing and presenting a chapter from DMS. You will upload your précis to Blackboard no later than 2:00pm on the day of class and also bring in copies to hand out in class. This will count for up to 10 points of your total available points in the course. Failure to upload or bring in hard copies will result in a zero.
5. Weekly Analysis: Write TWO, 5 page (double spaced, 12pt font) papers synthesizing, summarizing and critically analyzing the week's readings, both DMS and other articles. Look for themes, agreements and disagreements in the literature, applications to previous readings and apply that analysis to a local circumstance. Each analysis paper is due at the beginning of class (6:10pm the week of the discussion) and is worth 15 points for a total of up to 30 of the available points in the course.
6. Final Exam: The last class of the semester will consist of an oral final examination; this will count for up to 10 points of your total available points in the course. Make-up exams will only be given if the student notifies the professor PRIOR to the exam and provides documented evidence of a valid University approved excuse with documentation, i.e. University sponsored event, etc. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor and arrange for a make-up exam.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are NOT accepted under any circumstances and all assignments not handed in on time will receive a grade of zero. If you suspect you may have difficulty getting an assignment in on a certain date, please feel free to turn it in early.

Plagiarism/Cheating/Academic Integrity:

Blackboard includes a tool called "Safe Assign." This is a plagiarism checking device you may use for this course. If you submit a draft to Safe Assign and find that you have plagiarized, please come see me for assistance. You will not be penalized for plagiarism in a draft. You will be penalized for plagiarism in a final assignment. Please note that Safe Assign is a limited tool; it does not find all forms of plagiarism. You remain responsible for any form of plagiarism found in your final assignment, even if you have used Safe Assign.

Because students have the opportunity to learn about, check for, and avoid plagiarism prior to turning in the final paper, I have to assume any plagiarism I find in final papers is intentional. ***There are no “second chances.” The same is true for other violations of academic integrity.*** That you “didn’t mean to” or “didn’t know” are not excuses for plagiarism or other violations of academic integrity. I am available to assist you; please see me if you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism ***before*** turning in your final papers!

In addition, all sources of reference from which students take quotations, major theories or concepts must be properly cited. Submitting plagiarized work or any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and such actions will result in ***failure of the course*** and potentially expulsion from the University. The University’s policy on plagiarism can be found at http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf.

	<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Précis 1 & 2	20	
Chapter Summary	10	
Weekly Analysis Paper 1 & 2	30	
Attendance	10	Everyday
Class Participation	20	Everyday
Final Exam	<u>10</u>	Oral Exam June 17 th
	100 Total Points	

Grade Scale:

93 – 101 = A	87 – 89 = B+	80 – 82 = B-	70 – 76 = C
90 – 92 = A-	83 – 86 = B	77 – 79 = C+	60 – 69 = D
			59 or less = F

Tentative Course Outline: (Subject to Change at Instructor’s Discretion)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u> <u>Due by date shown below</u>
5/8	Introduction, précises and papers	Reading and Analyzing Rational Choice Overview
5/13	State and Local Politics Federalism	DMS 1 & 2 FL Module of DMS Tiebout 1956 Qian & Weingast 1997 Lamb & Wilk 2010 Cortez 2008
5/15	<i>Class is Cancelled</i> Governors and the Bureaucracy and Local Land Use Politics	DMS 8&12 Woods & Baranowski 2007 Armstrong 2011 Bradbury and Waechter 2009 Navarro & Carson 1991 Feiock 2004
5/20	Participation, Elections and Representation	DMS 3 Hajnal & Lewis 2003 Schaffner, et al. 2001 Hajnal & Trounstein 2005

5/22	State and Local Direct Democracy	DMS 4 Jameson and Hosack 1995 Santerre 1986 Matusaka 2009 Childers & Binder 2012
5/27	<i>Memorial Day No Class</i>	
5/29	Diffusion	DMS 14 & 15 Berry & Berry 1990 Mooney 2001 Shipan and Volden 2006
6/3	Parties and Interest Groups	DMS 5 & 6 Wright and Schaffner 2002 Ferreira & Gyourko 2007 Anzia 2011 Holyoke, et al. 2012
6/5	State Legislatures	DMS 7 Barrilleaux 1997 Cox et al. 2010 Gamm & Kousser 2011 Yakovlev et al. 2012
6/10	Fiscal Policy & Pensions	DMS 10 Baicker et al. 2010 Zhang & Liao 2011 Novy-Marx & Rauh 2011 Lee & Vonasek 2011 *Tough Choices 2011a & 2011b Other links in the folder <i>Optional</i> FL Leg. Local Govt. Handbook 2011
6/12	Structure of Local Government <i>with special guest</i>	DMS 11 <i>TBA</i> Feiock 2007 Welch 2012 Jarmon et al. 2012
6/17	Final Exam Day	