Textbook (required): Bowman & Kearney, State and Local Government, 9th ed. The textbook is on sale in the bookstore. Readings are either in Course Documents section (S) or accessible through External Links of Sakai site.

Websites: Please consult the class site on Sakai where you will find the lecture outlines, syllabus, assignments, external links, etc. Also consult the publisher’s website, student companion site at <http://www.cengagebrain.com> There you will find practice quizzes organized by chapter. Also you may find the Writing Center’s handout “Writing In Political Science” helpful in writing your term papers. It can be found, along with many other useful handouts, at http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/

Course Description: We will study political behavior and processes, governmental institutions, and public policies at the subnational level within a comparative framework. This course is concerned with the general structure of state and local government within a federal system and with similarities and differences among all 50 states in both politics and government. It is not a course on North Carolina, though it will help you understand this state’s politics. Each student will choose and follow a state throughout the course, and write a paper about it, so that you can become knowledgeable about the politics of a state different from your own. In this spirit, you cannot choose the state of NC as the topic of your paper.

Format of the Course: Lecture: The class will meet twice a week for lectures. It works best if you complete the assigned reading before coming to class. Periodically there will be participatory activities
during class—small group discussions, writing assignments, or even something fun; evidence of this work will be collected and recorded, but not graded. Please put your section # on your paper and hand it in before leaving class. There will be 11 such exercises, 10 of which will count, i.e., you can drop one time without penalty. **Otherwise, there are no make-ups, no excused absences, no late papers accepted. This is the policy for in-class exercises only.**

*Section:* Once a week students will meet in small recitation sections with a TA. The sections may involve additional assignments, including the **required 10 pages of writing in the term paper** based upon the state you are following for the course, as well as debate and discussion. The ten pages of writing are required for any UNC course that counts for a General Education requirement. **You must be registered for a recitation section numbered 600 thru 611** in addition to the class 101-1. Regular attendance is expected in the section; more than one absence will lower your grade. The TAs will establish policies for late papers in their sections. The section grade is based primarily upon the term paper plus section participation.

**Classroom Expectations:** We will endeavor to start and end on time; please make every effort to do the same. If you do happen to come in late, please find a seat (they are always available on the front row!); sitting on the floor at the back is **not** allowed. Questions are always welcomed during lecture (indeed it is a sure-fire way to avoid falling asleep!). If you don’t understand something, please ask, or if you have an example to contribute, please speak up.

**Electronic Devices:** They should be turned off and put away; cell phones and laptops are not to be used during class time. Research (e.g., Carr, *The Shallows*; Berry and Westfall, “Dial D for Distraction,” 2012) shows that most people are not good at multitasking; thus, checking out your facebook page, shopping, or sending an email interfere with your ability to process what is going on in class. I realize that you will have to take notes with pen and paper, but they may actually turn out to be better notes. To assist your note taking I post the lecture outline the night before on Sakai so that you can print it out before class.

**Grading:**

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<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<td>In-class exercises</td>
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<td>Section</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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Grades are recorded on Sakai, which you can access at any time; please do not wait until the end of the semester to complain about a discrepancy in the recording of your grades. Students are expected to take all exams at the scheduled time. If a medical emergency occurs that prevents taking the exam, please contact the instructor (**please state the name of your TA in the email**) or the TA before the exam. Make-up exams will be arranged for students with valid medical excuses.

Please plan to take the final exam at the time and date stated on the schedule below. Here are the University’s rules governing changes to the official exam schedule as stated on the Registrar’s website:

“A student who has three final examinations scheduled by the Office of the University Registrar within a twenty-four hour period may petition his or her dean for permission to have one of the scheduled examinations rescheduled. In the event that one of the scheduled examinations is a Common Hour Exam, that examination is the one to be rescheduled. In all cases in which an examination is to be rescheduled, the instructor may reschedule that examination during the final examination period, but not later than the end of the following
semester. **Any petition for a change in the examination schedule because of the “three exams in a twenty-four hour” rule must be made to your dean’s office before the first day of the final examinations.** Students are required to take final examinations as scheduled. The only exceptions are for illness as documented by being on infirmary list at Campus Health Services or for other medically-documented or family or personal emergency situations. A student must meet with an academic dean to request permission for an examination excuse and documentation will be required.”

The first midterm exam will consist of multiple choice questions, “define and give the significance of” questions, and a paragraph essay question. The second midterm exam will be similar. The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions covering the material since the second midterm, longer essay questions (models will be provided a week in advance), and a required application question. All material in lecture, section, textbook, and outside reading is fair game for exams.

Academic achievement at UNC is graded on the following basis:

- **A** Outstanding mastery of the course materials; students have exhibited performance far above that required for the course and far above that usually seen in the course.
- **B** Superior mastery of the course materials; students have exhibited performance that is strong and very clearly above what is required in the course.
- **C** Satisfactory mastery of the course materials; students have exhibited performance that clearly meets the course requirements in all respects.
- **D** Poor mastery of the course materials; students have exhibited performance that is below the course requirements, but still worthy of credit.
- **F** Unsatisfactory mastery of the course materials; students have exhibited performance that fails to meet the requirements of the course.

In my classes I use the following grade distribution:

- **A:** 93 and above
- **A-:** 90-92
- **B+:** 88-89
- **B:** 83-87
- **B-:** 80-82
- **C+:** 78-79
- **C:** 73-77
- **C-:** 70-72
- **D+:** 68-69
- **D:** 63-67
- **D-:** 60-62
- **F:** 59 and below

The **Honor Code** is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at [http://instrument.unc.edu](http://instrument.unc.edu). If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask me or the TAs about the Code’s application. All exams and papers must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.
Communicating with the Professor: In communications with the instructor about a problem, please include the name of your TA and copy him/her on all such correspondence. Otherwise, I will just have to write you back to get this information which slows down communication. Also please use your official UNC email account for this class; all class emails will be sent to that address.

Accommodation: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) contact the office of the Department of Disability Services at UNC  
http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/eligibility/documentation.html  
(2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Attach a note with the name of your TA. This should be done during the first week of class. I am happy to make accommodation in these circumstances. Similarly, student athletes should give the instructor and TA notification of travel schedules requiring any adjustment in exam schedules.

Thank you for reading this far!!

Outline and Reading Assignments

Aug 21  
Introduction to the Class

Aug 26  
Why and How to Study States


Aug 28  

Sept 2  
NO CLASS  
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
 
Federalism: Constitutional & Fiscal Issues
 
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 2.

Sept 4  

Sept 9  
State Constitutions
 
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 3

Sept 11  
Political Participation
 
Sept 16  Direct Democracy

Sept 18  Political Parties

Sept 23  Media

Sept 25  Interest Groups and Lobbying

Sept. 30  Catch Up Day

Oct 2  MIDTERM EXAM 1

Oct 7  Legislatures
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 6; (S) Malewitz, “Majorities Drive Sweeping, Divergent Changes across States,” <stateline.org> June 10, 2013.


Oct 14  Governors
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 7

Oct 16  Governors and Executive Branch (continued)

Oct 21  Bureaucracy

Oct 23  Courts
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 9

Oct 28  Courts (continued)

Oct 30 MIDTERM EXAM 2

Nov 4 Taxation Policy
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 13.

Nov 6 Tax Policy (continued)

Nov 11 Economic Policy: Economic Development

Nov 13 Economic Policy: Infrastructure & Regulation

Nov 18 Education Policy

Nov 20 Criminal Justice Policy
Read: Bowman & Kearney, ch. 16; (S) Lyons, “High-Yield Corrections,” State Legislatures (Jan., 2013):

Nov 25 Welfare Policy

Nov. 27 NO CLASS PRE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Dec 2 Health Policy

Dec 4 Catch Up Day and Summary

Dec 14 8 a.m. FINAL EXAM