# POLS 5567 / 4467 – 01: STATE AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Department of Political Science

3 Credits

Idaho State University

Spring 2015

Instructor:

Daniel Hummel

**Email:** hummdani@isu.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Graveley Hall:** Room 306

ISU – Pocatello

## Course Time and Location:

Thursday: 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM

ISU Pocatello Campus

921 South 8th Ave.

Pocatello, ID 83201

Building: Rendezvous

Room 122

## Required Textbook:

None (All readings are available on Moodle)

## Course Description / Objective:

This course is a compendium to POLS 3308 (State and Local Government), but is not a requirement for this course. For those students that took this course the present course is more focused and more advanced. There is some coverage of the structure of government at the state and local level including discussions of constitutions and institutions which was thoroughly covered in POLS 3308. This course will focus on issues pertaining to intergovernmental mandates, funding, lobbying, own-source revenues, fiscal stress, local government autonomy and civil rights / liberties. A good portion of this course is focused on state and local government finance. The intention of this course is to provide the learner knowledge about the functions of the states and their local governments, their problems, their interactions and their unique roles in the governing system of the United States. The assignments in this course aim to encourage problem-solving while the exams aim to encourage information retention. The objective of this course is to thoroughly inform current or future administrators / officials at the state or local level about the issues they may experience and provide them with different ways to think about them. This course also aims to inform future scholars in the field and provide directions for research in this area.

## Course Format:

This course utilizes Moodle (<https://elearning.isu.edu/moodle2/login/index.php>) to provide the readings for this class as well as homework assignments. You will be expected to do the readings for each week, participate in class discussions / activities, do the mid-term and final exam on time, submit the assignments on time, and engage with me for any questions/concerns that you have during the course. There is no required textbook. Please see details below on communicating with the professor as well as rules for classroom discussions. Please refer to the grading percentages below and the grading scale. Please feel free to ask any questions at any time.

### Communication with the Professor -

I will respond within 24 hours of receiving the email. If you do not get a response by this time, please email me again as emails get lost, etc. Please allow a longer timeframe for holidays and weekends. I will be available during my office hours for both of us to talk. Please see information above on office hours. I can also be available outside of this time, but please arrange this with me on a case by case basis. Please be respectful in your communication with me. Discourteous communication with me will warrant no response from me. My email is: hummdani@isu.edu

### 6 Rules for Classroom Discussion –

The rules for classroom discussions are provided here.

**Rule 1**: No student will dominate the discussion entirely.

**Rule 2**: Each student must participate in the group and class discussions without exception.

**Rule 3**: The speaking time per student is limited to 2 minutes per point in which only one point can be made at any one time.

**Rule 4**: Each student will be the moderator to the group discussions at least once.

**Rule 5**: Discussions must be polite / civil. Please refer to the student handbook, article III section 1b (1-4). The classroom must be a place of mutual respect between classmates and between students and the professor. Opinions are welcome, but civility is paramount. Any violations of this rule will have three strikes before I will take appropriate action at the university administration level. The first strike will be a warning. The second strike will be a loss of half of the points from the next homework assignment and the third strike will be a 0 for the next homework assignment and I will pursue options at the university to have you removed from the course.

**Rule 6**: All discussions must remain on topic. No off-topic discussions.

### Homework –

There are **6 homework assignments** throughout the semester. These assignments will be submitted via Moodle. Please check course schedule below for due dates for assignments as well as Moodle for assignment descriptions.

#### Essay Instructions –

The essays are the homework assignments for this course. The purpose of these essays is to apply the readings from the class to answer the questions in Moodle. Specific issues or problems are raised in the questions for each essay and these questions must be answered as thoroughly as possible. Each essay will be graded based on completeness, accuracy and focus. It is important that the essay not stray from the topic surfaced in the question(s). It is also important to accurately cite where the information is derived even though it is expected that most of the information will be coming from the readings. Non-academic sources are not accepted which includes newspapers, magazines and tv sources. You may use any accepted method of formatting including APA, Chicago, etc. Please see information in the syllabus regarding library resources. I also recommend utilizing the writing resources available on campus to improve writing abilities. You will submit these essays via Moodle on the link for the assignment. See syllabus schedule.

##### Essay Grading Rubric

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Item** | **Item Explanation** | **Grade Points Possible** |
| Answers the question | Essay thoroughly answers the question(s) posed in Moodle.  | 1 Point Possible |
| Cites resources | Information used to write the essay is accurately cited in which most of these resources will be class readings | 1 Point Possible |
| Remains on topic and is accurate | Essays have to focus on the questions posed in Moodle. Off topic discussions will not be accepted and will hurt this score. Inaccurate comments will also hurt this score. | 1 Point Possible |
| Writing clear | The writing has to be clear and understandable. Poor writing will result in a loss of this point. | 1 Point Possible |
| Writing academic | The writing has to meet academic standards. Opinions have to be founded on fact based in the readings, not conjecture. | 1 Point Possible |
| Total Points Possible | These are percentage points. | 5 Points Possible |

### Mid-Term/Final Exams –

The Mid-Term and Final Exam will be online on the Moodle page for the course. You will have two hours to complete the exam and it will be available for one day in which you can take it any time during that day. Please refer to syllabus schedule below for more details on when the Mid-Term and Final Exam will be available. It will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions. The exam will be open book / notes. No collaboration! See course policies on cheating. **Please do not wait till the last minute to complete the exam as I will not provide extensions.** If you are unable to complete the exam during the time allotted, please consult with the professor.

### Forums –

Weeks 4 – 6 will be online because the professor will be overseas on a USAID funded grant during that time period. The class will continue normal activities including homework submissions scheduled, but the in-class component (lecture & class discussions) will be conducted online. This will be implemented via lecture videos posted online for each week and online forums. Participation in these forums is mandatory and form a part of your final grade. There are posting expectations to receive full credit. See below.

#### Posting Expectations

Please post questions and comments framed within the context of our readings/discussions for that week or incorporate material from the previous classes so long as it applies to the current week’s class. I also expect that you will comment on other postings by the professor or other students. A discussion is two way so please read other postings and respond as well as make your own postings. The rules to the forum are below.

Please post a reply to the professors initial post / question on that string. Please reply to other replies by other students. Replies should be informed agreement / disagreement or a good question for the poster. **Stating 'I agree' responses do not count.**

* **Please reply to my post by Tuesday.**
* **Please reply to another student's reply by Wednesday.**
* In addition, please post a question in a separate string. Every student must post their own set of questions (based on the readings / subject of this week's readings). **Please post this question / set of questions by Thursday.**
* **Please answer 1 of these questions from another student by Friday.**

These are the minimum requirements to get full credit, but don't feel constrained by them. POST AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!!!!

#### Code of Conduct

Please refer to the student handbook, article III section 1b (1-4). The virtual classroom must be a place of mutual respect between classmates and between students and the professor. Opinions are welcome, but civility is paramount. Please be aware that comments shared online are just as hurtful as statements made to someone’s face. Tim O’Reilly, an active blogger, proposed a Blogger’s Code of Conduct which I will use in this class (http://radar.oreilly.com/2007/04/draft-bloggers-code-of-conduct.html). Please see the code below. Any violations of this code will have three strikes before I will take appropriate action at the university administration level. The first strike will be a warning. The second strike will be a loss of half of the points for the assignment and the third strike will be a 0 for the assignment and I will pursue options at the university to have you removed from the course.

Code of Conduct

1. We take responsibility for our own words and for the comments we allow on our blog.
	1. Unacceptable content is..
		1. Being abusive, harassing, stalking, or threatening
		2. Being libelous, knowingly false, ad-hominem, or misrepresenting another person
		3. Infringing upon a copyright or trademark
		4. Violating an obligation of confidentiality
		5. Violating the privacy of others
2. We won’t say anything online we wouldn’t say in person
3. We connect privately before responding publicly
	1. This is the teacher’s responsibility in the class. I will contact you directly via email to inform you that you have violated this code. I will not make a public statement regarding the issue until I have contacted you first.
4. When we believe someone is unfairly attacking another, we take action
	1. I expect the other students to police this forum besides the teacher alone. If there is a violation of this code occurring please email the professor immediately so that immediate action can be taken to limit the impact of the statements.
5. We do not allow anonymous comments
	1. As a member of the course you do not have control over this function anyways.
6. We ignore trolls (a troll is a online person looking to create trouble by posting outrageous comments)
	1. We will probably not ignore them, but a troll-type comment will be ignored by the teacher when grades are assigned hence the reason for the reduction in points from these comments.

The other students are expected to not respond to the persons comment, but ignore it until the teacher can delete it and take appropriate action.

### Grades –

Grades will also be posted on Moodle. Grades are typically posted a week after receiving the assignment. The homework assignments together represent 30 percent of the final grade. There is one Mid-term worth 20 percent of the grade and one Final worth 30 percent of the grade. Both of these exams will be done via Moodle (online exam). The forums will be worth 20 percent of the final grade.

### Grading/Evaluation –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Homework | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Mid-Term Exam | 20% |
| Forums | 20% |
| **Total Percent** | **100%** |

#### Grading scale –

A = 95-100 points; A- = 90-94 points

B+ = 87-89 points; B = 84-86 points, B- = 80-83 points

C+ = 77-79 points; C = 74-76 points; C- 70-73 points

D+ = 67-69 points; D = 64-66 points, D- = 60-63 points

F=0-59

## Institutional Resources

I recommend you use the resources available at ISU.

* Please visit the writing center for help with your writing assignments (<http://www.isu.edu/success/writing/>).
* Please visit the online writing lab (<http://www.isu.edu/success/writing/owl.shtml>).
* Please visit/use the library for additional resources (<http://www.isu.edu/library/>).
* Please visit the student success center for tutoring (<http://www.isu.edu/success/cat/>).
* Please contact information technology services for problems with Moodle (<http://www.isu.edu/its/>).

## Prerequisite Knowledge and/or Competencies:

There are no prerequisites for this course. The course covers the basics of public budgeting and finance.

## Minimum Technical Skills:

This course will require you to have an active or developing knowledge of Moodle. We will use Moodle for exam and assignment submission in this class. Please see the resources on Moodle available at <http://www.isu.edu/itrc/m2/m2handouts_students.shtml>.

## Course or Institutional Policies:

### Policy on late work and make-up exam –

No make-up exam and no late homework. 0 points will be given. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time please contact me before the due date so that accommodations can be made.

### Students with Disabilities –

Any student who feels an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is necessary should talk with me privately to discuss your specific needs and the requirements of the course. You should also contact Disability Services at 282-3599 in the Rendezvous Building, Room 125 to coordinate reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor and Disability Services. Please see their web page at http://www.isu.edu/ada4isu for more information about this process. Email: disabilityservices@isu.edu

### Academic Honesty –

Please refer to the student handbook, article III section 1c for definitions and appropriate responses to academic dishonesty. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class.

### Disruptive Students –

Please see Rule 5 above under ‘Rules for Classroom Discussions’.

## Schedule / Course Outline:

### Week 1: Constitutional Powers of the State

#### Thursday (January 15th) –

**Subject:** Introductions; Syllabus; State’s rights; U.S. Constitution

**Please read:** Ramsey 2012; Krey 2010

**Powerpoints:** State’s Rights

**Homework:** None

### Week 2: State Governments & Constitutions

#### Thursday (January 22nd) –

**Subject:** State constitutions; State legislatures; State executive offices; State courts

**Please read:** Simon, Steel & Lovrich (Chapter 5 (all), Chapter 6 (pp. 128 – 140), Chapter 7 (pp. 153 – 165), Chapter 8 (all))

**Powerpoints:** State Governments

**Homework :** Homework 1 Due via Moodle by January 28th End of Day

### Week 3: Local Governments & Charters

#### Thursday (January 29th) –

**Subject:** Local government structures; Municipal charters

**Please read:** Keller 2002; Simon, Steel & Lovrich (Chapter 6 (pp. 140 – 150), Chapter 7 (pp. 165 – 175))

**Powerpoints:** Local Governments

**Homework :** None

### Week 4: Federal Mandates (Online)

#### Thursday (February 5th) –

**Subject:** Federal control over the states; Opt-in federalism vs. Coercive federalism

**Please read:** Gormley Jr. 2006; Maher 2011; Posner 2007

**Powerpoints:** The Federal Prerogative

**Forum 1:** Federal Mandates on States

**Homework:** Homework 2 Due via Moodle by February 11th End of Day

### Week 5: Local Government Stewardship / Autonomy (Online)

#### Thursday (February 12th) –

**Subject:** Home rule; Local autonomy

**Please read:** Wolman et.al. 2008; Wood 2012; Wood 2011; Bowman & Kearney 2011

**Powerpoints:** Local autonomy

**Forum 2:** Local Autonomy Challenges

**Homework:** None

### Week 6: Federal Funding for States (Online)

#### Thursday (February 19th) –

**Subject:** Federal grants; State revenues from Federal sources

**Please read:** Galle, 2008; Clark & Whitford 2011; Larcinese et.al. 2013

**Powerpoints:** Federal Funding for States

**Forum 3:** Federal Funding

**Homework:** Homework 3 Due via Moodle by February 25th End of Day

### Week 7: Federal and State Funding for Local Governments

#### Thursday (February 26th) –

**Subject:** Federal grants to local governments; State aid to local governments; Review for Mid-Term

**Please read:** Handley 2008; Dye & Reschovsky 2008

**Powerpoints:** Federal and State Funding for Local Governments

**Homework:** None

### Week 8: Mid-Term

#### Tuesday (March 3rd) –

**Subject:** Mid-Term Exam (Available on Moodle at Midnight and closes at 11:55PM – Same Day)

**No Reading**

**No Powerpoints**

**No Homework**

#### Thursday (March 5th) –

**No Class**

**Week 9: Own-Source Revenues for States**

***Thursday (March 12th) –***

**Subject:** Go over Mid-Term Results; Types of Revenues for States

**Please read:** Thompson 2013; Mikesell 2007

**Powerpoints:** State Revenues

**Homework:** None

**Week 10: Own-Source Revenues for Local Governments**

***Thursday (March 19th) –***

**Subject:** Types of Revenues for Local Governments

**Please read:** Hummel 2014; Afonso 2013; Hayashi 2014

**Powerpoints:** Local Government Revenues

**Homework:** Homework 4 Due via Moodle by April 1st End of Day

**Week 11: March 23 – 27: Spring Break**

**Week 12: States & Local Governments in Fiscal Crisis**

***Thursday (April 2nd) –***

**Subject:** State budget shortfalls; The Great Recession; Municipal bankruptcy

**Please read:** State Budget Crisis Task Force 2014; Anderson 2014; National League of Cities 2014

**Powerpoints:** State Fiscal Crisis

**Homework:** Homework 5 Due via Moodle by April 8th End of Day

**Week 13: No Class**

***Thursday (April 9th) –***

**No Reading**

**No Powerpoints**

**No Homework**

**Week 14: State and Local Governments as Lobbyists**

***Thursday (April 16th) –***

**Subject:** State and Local governments lobbying; Associations and Lobbying; Negotiating & Bargaining

**Please read:** Seifter 2014; Jensen & Emery 2011; Wogan 2014; Cammisa 2013

**Powerpoints:** State and Local Lobbying

**Homework:** None

**Week 15: Civil Rights and Liberties in the States**

***Thursday (April 23rd) –***

**Subject:** Civil right/liberties at the state and local level

**Please read:** Ruger & Sorens 2011; Usman 2010; Tepperman-Gelfant 2006

**Powerpoints:** Civil liberties and rights in states and local levels

**Homework:** Homework 6 Due via Moodle by April 29th End of Day

**Week 16: Closed Week**

***Thursday (April 30th) –***

**Subject:** Review for Final Exam

**No Reading**

**No Powerpoints**

**No Homework**

**Week 17: Finals Week**

***Thursday (May 7th) –***

**Subject:** Final Exam (Available at Midnight and closes at End of the Day (11:55PM) – Same Day)