

Welcome to POS 2112: State and Local Government Honors Online!



OVERVIEW: In-depth study of state, county and municipal government with emphasis on contemporary problems. Gordon Rule course which requires demonstration of college level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

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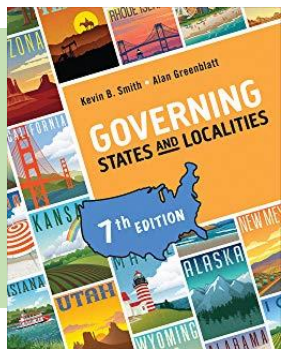
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SPRING

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Governing States and Localities, 7e

Kevin B. Smith & Alan Greenblatt

February 2019 | 584 pages | CQ Press

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WEBSITE [<https://edge.sagepub.com/smithgreenblatt7e>]

Evaluation, Testing and Grading

Exams (3): Worth 10 % Each (30 % Total)

Online Weekly Modules: Worth 70 % Total

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for reading and taking notes on the textbook chapters. Each week there will be online modules with assignments that must be completed and submitted before the listed due date. This is so the students and the instructor may have a fuller and more involved discussion during course. If you are having trouble understanding any material, please contact the instructor via email or make an appointment during the listed office hours.

Also, any and all work you may complete in this class may be used for research and development here at Valencia College.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core values supporting the democratic tradition of the United States. In-depth study of state, county and municipal government with emphasis on contemporary problems
- Develop an understanding of the effects of government (at all levels in the United States) on citizens' lives and the effects of citizens on government in pursuit of social, political and economic goals.
- Utilize critical thinking in analyzing political, social and economic issues.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Although this is an online class, attendance is an important aspect to the course. You are required to log into the Canvas course **AT LEAST THREE (3) TIMES A WEEK**. Failure to follow this policy may result in a poor class performance. Any module work not completed and submitted by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero. *Any student that has not logged into Canvas before the deadline of Module One WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE.*

IMPORTANT DATES		
ADD/DROP DEADLINES		
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE		

Exams in their entirety in this course are completed online. Instructions/deadlines for the exams can be found in the module during an exam week (see **Course Calendar**). Exams **MUST** be completed during time of exam module release (*approx. five (5) days, unless otherwise noted*). **No exceptions for missed exams will be made.**

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. Students who stay in the class after this deadline are responsible to complete all work required for the course; for example, homework, projects, tests, etc. If you choose to stop logging into the class after the Withdrawal deadline, you will be held responsible for all work missed, including the final examination. Any modules not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero.

Hence, the final grade for the course will be determined by taking into consideration the percentages obtained by work which was turned in and the zeros given to work not turned in on time. Students can still be withdrawn by the college for violations of the college’s code of conduct policies. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to:

HELPFUL LINKS

General Counsel: (<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/>)

Important Dates: (http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/importantdates_withdraw.cfm)

Calendars: (<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>)

MODULES

Here you will find details and explanations about the assignments found in the weekly online modules. Modules appear the week we start a topic (**SUNDAYS 11.59 PM**). Please see the **COURSE CALENDAR** for upcoming module releases. *Specific dates and deadlines for module assignments can be found within each module section under MODULES. Assignments are due throughout the week.* All modules in this course make up 70 percent of your final grade. Please do not hesitate to message, email or speak with the instructor during office hours if there are any concerns.

Study Guides

In each module, there will be homework/study guide/outline starting in Week 1 and will occur every week throughout the semester. These study outlines will be related to the textbook chapters. These are not meant to harm your grade, but to help with more points and to assist in your digestion of the information. Please answer all questions fully, using **details/examples/events from the textbook**; homework not turned in on time will NOT be accepted.

You will submit answers to study outline questions through Canvas's Assessment function. The outline will be detailed and there will be a text box to write or paste answers. **Study outline answers posted in the comments box will be marked as INCOMPLETE.** Feel free to store/save these study outline answers to help prepare for upcoming exams.

Study guides are due every Wednesday (11.59 PM), unless otherwise noted.

Citation of Sources

When discussing international politics and government (or any academic issues), citation of sources is critical. When you cite facts and figures and content, the reader (or in this case, the professor) needs to know where you got the information from. Otherwise, the argument you are trying to make in the discussion post or journal falls flat. *Module assignments missing full MLA citations will be marked with a zero "0."*

In future assignments, always keep in mind these citation suggestions. Whenever you quote or summarize, cite. MLA citation of sources is recommended at the undergraduate level. For more information on MLA structure, please [[CLICK HERE](#)].

If there are ever ANY questions about citation and sources, never hesitate to contact me. All of you have very important insight and issues to write about, and citing them in discussions/journals make them more legitimate. Points will be deducted for not following these policies!

Discussion Posts

From time to time, discussion posts will be a feature of the module. This includes an original post (100-200 words) dealing with a prompt. Once the original post has been completed, you will be assigned to view other student posts on the same prompt. Respond to at least two (2) other posts from students, giving constructive and inquisitive thoughts to the discussion (50-100 words). Due dates for original posts and response will be listed in the modules.

To make a discussion post:

1. Click on "Discussions"
2. Click on the appropriate "forum" as listed in the MODULE assignments for that week.
3. To make your own original post, click "create thread". The subject of your thread should be your name. In most modules you will have to make an original post in order to see postings from other group members.
4. To reply to another group member, simply click on their name and a reply option will be available at the bottom of the box.

Discussion Rules and Procedures:

- Make sure you post on time. Post by the deadlines noted in the modules. Points will not be earned for late posts.
- Follow the instructions in your modules for the discussions posts to earn points. Longer is not always better. You will have specific questions to answer. Make sure that question is answered. Clear and concise is fine as long as the question is answered well.
- Be original, meaningful and thoughtful.
- When writing a post or response, avoid ALL CAPS, swearing, hate speech, text/chat language (lol, gr8, cuz, hashtags) and other forms of non-academic speech. As a student in college, one should write at a collegiate level. Further, the instructor should be able to read posts that are coherent and grammatically correct. .
- AVOID RESPONSES that do not contribute to the conversation. “I agree” or “I think the same as so and so” do not contribute. Back up your ideas with ideas from the text, news articles, laws, court cases and other academic sources.
- Common courtesy and good manners will apply in this course
- This is not a venue for conspiracy theories.
- Hate speech will never be tolerated and will likely result in punishment consistent with the college policy for violation of the student code of conduct.
- Points will be deducted for not following these policies!

Journal Entries

Journal entries are very different from discussion posts. The journal entries, which may be an aspect of a module, include thoughts, questions, ideas and critiques of the material. These will only be visible to the student writing the entry and the instructor. Other students will not be able to view journal entries. Depending on the module instructions, the journal entry will deal with the week’s topic, as well as themes from previous or upcoming weeks. Prompts may also involve the student to watch or complete a video or exercise.

Questions or concerns about the course, Canvas, or any other issues NOT dealing with the material MUST be communicated through Canvas message, email, or during office hours.

At the instructor's discretion, well-written and well-cited assignment submissions may receive up to 10 bonus points. These bonus points indicate exceptional research and detail.

Tasks and Deadlines

All dates and deadlines for assignments will be detailed in the “tasks and deadlines” section of each module. Be sure to read through these at the beginning of each week to prepare accordingly. Canvas also has due dates attached to assignments, but it can be confusing as many assignments may be released all at once. If there are any questions or concerns about due dates and assignments, please check the tasks and deadlines section first.

Exams

There will be three course exam grades (including the final exam) throughout the semester (see Course Calendar) and will be worth, collectively, 30 % of your total grade (or 10 % each). Exams will be multiple choice (35-45 questions) and only cover material found in the textbook and other media presented in the online course. Instructions for the exams can be found in the module during an exam week (see Course Calendar). **Exams MUST be completed during time of exam module release (approx. five (5) days, unless otherwise noted). No exceptions for missed exams will be made.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=193>

Students are expected to write, test, discuss and perform in this class admirably and honestly. Please refer to the Valencia Student Handbook or () if you need information on academic honesty.

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

All of the following are considered plagiarism: Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

“Academic dishonesty allegations may be processed by the professor as academic violations, and/or may be processed in accordance with student conduct procedures set forth in this Code. Students may be subject to both the Student Conduct Code and academic sanctions as determined in the academic judgment of the professor in cases where there is a combination of alleged violations of academic and nonacademic regulations. Any student determined by the professor to have been responsible for engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties (apart from any sanctions that may be imposed pursuant to the Code) as determined by the professor which may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course.”

- (8-03 Student Code of Conduct)

ONLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

<https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/>

“Faculty members are authorized to define, communicate, and enforce appropriate standards of decorum in classrooms, offices, and other instructional areas under their supervision (ONLINE). Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Longer suspensions from class or dismissal on disciplinary grounds must be preceded by a disciplinary conference or hearing, as set forth in the Implementing Procedures of this Code.”

– (8-03 Student Code of Conduct)

OSD REGISTRATION PROCESS

<http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/CurrentStudents.cfm>

The first step in the eligibility process is to submit appropriate documentation of disability to the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). The documentation provided must establish the individual as a person with a disability and provides a rationale for reasonable accommodations. The College is obligated to make a reasonable accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student with disability.

In order to request accommodations from the College, the student must complete the following steps in the Office for Students with Disabilities registration process:

- Provide appropriate documentation of the disability for which accommodations are being requested
- Meet with an OSD advisor to review documentation, request reasonable accommodations and complete the student intake process
- Notify the instructor of the approved accommodation through the NTI form (within the first week of class)

Until all steps of the registration process have been completed, the student will be considered pending with OSD and will not be eligible for services or accommodations.

Incomplete files will be kept for one term and then destroyed. The student may, however, begin the process again at any time.

SYLLABUS ADJUSTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the class term, this syllabus may be altered or modified at the instructor's discretion. You will have adequate notice to any changes, but it is the responsibility of the student to make note of any adjustments as announced.

Announcements are used to bring to the students' attention any major change or aspect to this online course. Please allow announcement emails to be received in your ATLAS email account. To avoid any missed announcements, simply log into the course frequently week to week. Please contact the instructor IMMEDIATELY if access to the course or to announcements has been hindered.

COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Please refer to the module section on the left-hand side of this course interface. Further instructions and deadlines for each weekly module will be found there.

Modules appear the week we start a topic (Sundays 11.59 PM). No late submissions will be accepted.

WEEK:	Date Starting:	TOPIC: State and Local Politics (ONLINE)	NOTES:
1		Chapter 2: State and Local Politics in a Federal System	MODULE 1 DUE
2		Chapter 3: Constitutions	MODULE 2 DUE
3		Chapter 4: Finance Policy	MODULE 3 DUE
4		Chapter 5: Political Attitudes and Participation	MODULE 4 DUE
5		EXAM I WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit I	EXAM I DUE FRIDAY
6		Chapter 7: State Legislatures	MODULE 6 DUE
7		Chapter 8: Governors and the State Bureaus	MODULE 7 DUE
8		Chapter 9: State Courts and the Criminal Justice System	MODULE 8 DUE
9		Chapter 9: State Courts and the Criminal Justice System	MODULE 9 DUE
10		EXAM II WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit II	EXAM II DUE FRIDAY
11		Chapter 11: Structure of Local Governments	MODULE 11 DUE
12		Chapter 12: Metropolitcs	MODULE 12 DUE
13		Chapter 13: Education Policy	MODULE 13 DUE
14		Chapter 15: Social Welfare and Health Care Policy	MODULE 14 DUE
15		FINAL EXAM WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit III	FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY
IMPORTANT DATES			
ADD/DROP DEADLINES			
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE			
OFFICE HOURS			
	DAY	TIME	NOTES
	MONDAY		
	TUESDAY		
	WEDNESDAY		
	THURSDAY		
	FRIDAY		