Course Description:
This course is intended to acquaint students with the role and practice of state governments within the United States.

State governments exist in a variety of forms. Consequently, in this course we will examine the various types and structures of state governments. Students will also address the fundamental principles, generalizations, and current theories about state governments.

The history and development of state governments will be addressed; the proper role and authority of state officials will be examined; the accountability of state government to citizens will be considered; the importance of media and communication and information shared between state governments and citizens will be evaluated. The Constitutional and legal authority of state governments will also be analyzed.

Course Structure:
Lecture/discussion; multiple choice and essay exams; a written project.

Course Objectives:
- Students will gain factual knowledge (terminology), classifications, methods, trends) about state government.
• Students will learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories about state government.
• Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

**Required Textbooks:**

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance requirements are compatible with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students should review that policy statement for a more detailed explanation of attendance policy.

**Exams and Grading Plan:**
There will be three examinations. Each exam will be worth 25% of the grade in the course. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice and essay. Cumulatively, these three tests will equal 75% of the grade in the course. Make up exams are the responsibility of the student to call attention and see that unfinished work is completed before the end of the semester.

Grades will be precisely and specifically calculated and assigned according to traditional grading scales and procedures using letter and numerical grades. A traditional ten point breakdown of grades from A to F will be followed.

**Academic Honesty:**
Academic dishonesty policies for this class are compatible with Academic policy Statement 810213. Students with any questions should consult that statement for more details.

**ADA:**
Policies for this class are compatible with the Americans for Disabilities Act, and students with any questions should work with the Professor to alleviate any difficulties.

**Religious Holidays:**
Religious Holidays are respected.
Instructor Evaluations:
Students will be asked to complete course/instructor evaluation forms toward the end of the semester.

Written Assignments:
Each student will be required to develop an informative journal devoted to the “politics” and government of one of the fifty states. The subject of the journal will be selected randomly at the first class meeting. The reading journal will consist of several parts. Each part will be graded separately and will be cumulatively considered at the end of the semester. Journal entries will be turned in 3 times during the semester. Each of the 3 entries will be worth 1/3 of the grade on the assignment. The journal as a whole will be worth 25% of the grade in the course.

Required Supplies:
No supplies are needed for this course unless we are talking about notebooks, pens and pencils, scantrons, etc.

Tentative Course Outline:

Wednesday, January 19, 2011  Introduction to State Government 1
Friday, January 21, 2011  Introduction to State Government 2
Monday, January 24, 2011  What is Politics?
Wednesday, January 26, 2011  What is Public Policy?
Friday, January 28, 2011  A constitutional Consideration of State Governments
Monday, January 31, 2011  Socioeconomic and Political Content of States, Ch. 1
Wednesday, February 2, 2011  Federalism, Ch. 2
Friday, February 4, 2011  Structures of State Government
Monday, February 7, 2011  Governor, Ch. 7
Wednesday, February 9, 2011  Executive Branch
Friday, February 11, 2011  Political Parties, Ch. 3
Monday, February 14, 2011  Elections, Ch. 3
Wednesday, February 16, 2011  State Demographics
Friday, February 18, 2011  State Economics
Monday, February 21, 2011  State Economics, part 2
Wednesday, February 23, 2011  Federal Money
Friday, February 25, 2011  Federal Lands
Monday, February 28, 2011  State and Local Governments
Wednesday, March 2, 2011  Interest Groups in the States
Friday, March 4, 2011  Initiative and Reform
Monday, March 7, 2011  State Legislatures
Wednesday, March 9, 2011  State Legislatures, part 2
Friday, March 11, 2011  TEST 1
March 14 – March 18  Spring Recess, No Class
Monday, March 21, 2011  Representation and Redistricting
Wednesday, March 23, 2011  State Courts
Friday, March 25, 2011  States and the Media
Monday, March 28, 2011  Women and Minorities in State Government
Wednesday, March 30, 2011  Counties
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Friday, April 1, 2011</td>
<td>State Corrections Policy</td>
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<td>Monday, April 4, 2011</td>
<td>Fiscal Policy in the States</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 6, 2011</td>
<td>State Health and Welfare</td>
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<td>Friday, April 8, 2011</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Monday, April 11, 2011</td>
<td>Social Regulation</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 13, 2011</td>
<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>Friday, April 15, 2011</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Monday, April 18, 2011</td>
<td>State Politics</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 20, 2011</td>
<td>TEST 2</td>
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<td>Friday, April 22, 2011</td>
<td>Good Friday, No Class</td>
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<td>Monday, April 25, 2011</td>
<td>State Public Policy</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 27, 2011</td>
<td>State Competition</td>
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<td>Friday, April 29, 2011</td>
<td>State Innovation</td>
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<td>Monday, May 2, 2011</td>
<td>State Failure</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 4, 2011</td>
<td>State Success</td>
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<td>Friday, May 6, 2011</td>
<td>Last Class Day—Review</td>
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<td>May 9 – May 12</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**
The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: [https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html](https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html)
Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. Cell phones and other typical disturbances should be reserved for emergencies.