

Public Policy 338
State Politics and Policy
Winter 2007
Professor Boris Shor
Tuesdays, 3-5:50
March 2, 2007

Office: Room 185

Email: bshor@uchicago.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, 3-5 pm or by app't

Description Despite the fact of a national market and ease of migration, US states persist in making dramatically different policy choices. This is true across a wide swath of issues, including Medicaid, education, pensions, criminal justice, and regulation. What accounts for these enduring differences? Is it variation in public opinion, demographics, income, or inequality? Or is it different political institutions? It is also the case that states vary systematically in their political choices for state and federal offices, perhaps most dramatically illustrated in the opposition of red and blue states. What are the consequences of this emerging political polarization? This course will compare the political and policy choices made by various US states in a variety of electoral, administrative, and policy settings. Students with interests in state policy, American and comparative politics are particularly suited for the course, though all are welcome.

Seminar Logistics This class is being taught as a seminar, and depending on the number of students attending class, I may have to limit enrollment. I will give preference to PhD and 2nd year MPP students.

Texts There are 4 required books for the class.

- Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gray, Virginia and Russell L. Hanson. 2004. *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis* Eighth ed. Washington: Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Huber, John D. and Charles R. Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rosenthal, Alan. 2004. *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*. Washington: Congressional Quarterly Press.

All other assigned readings (articles and portions of books) are available electronically on the course web site, which is located at chalk.uchicago.edu.

Requirements

1. **Active Participation.** Since this class is being taught as a seminar, your attendance, preparation, and participation are crucial. Do not be afraid of saying something “wrong,” and do not be afraid of asking questions. Most of the other students are probably thinking along similar lines as you. Constructive critiques of readings and lecture material are not only welcome, they are practically required.
2. **Short Critiques.** Write two 3-page papers reacting to a week’s reading of your choosing. Write an original argument that critiques argument(s) made by an author or authors in that week’s readings. Do not quote and paraphrase in no more than a sentence or two. Stick to theory at the expense of empirical evidence - there’s not enough room for the latter. Papers are to be submitted electronically no later than noon on the day of the class.
3. **Research Paper.** You will write a 14-20 page paper due at the end of the quarter due by Friday, March 16 (approval needed along with a meeting to discuss the topic of the paper). PhD and advanced MPP students should write an original empirical paper. You should submit a 1 (short) paragraph paper topic to me by email by February 1.
4. **Short Draft.** To commit you and facilitate writing the paper in more than a few days, you will electronically submit a 3 page precis or draft to me by noon on Feb 13 (ungraded). We will set up a meeting to discuss the project shortly thereafter.

Policies

- **Electronic submission.** Submit papers in electronic form through Chalk, using the “Digital Dropbox” function (make sure to “send file,” not “add file”). *Don’t* send me them in email attachments!
- **Paper formatting.** 1” margins, double-spaced, standard indenting, no extra space between paragraphs, 12-point serif font, like Times New Roman. More interesting fonts welcome. PDF format preferred; Word acceptable.
- **Lateness.** Is frowned upon. Each day a paper is late without a substantial excuse, a full letter grade is deducted from the paper.
- **Incompletes.** Discouraged, especially for MPP students. Considered for those writing an original empirical paper.
- **Plagiarism.** Will result in a failing grade for the course.

Grading

- Participation = 20%
- Short Critiques = 20%
- Research Paper = 60%

1 Jan 9. Introduction: Background and Context

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch. 1-2 (1-61)

Federalist Papers 17, 44-46

Brace and Jewett (1995)

2 Jan 16. Public Opinion

EWM, ch 1-4 (1-95)

EWM in Cohen, ch 12 (229-250)

Berry et al. (1998)

Nardulli 1990

Recommended

PGB in Cohen, ch 11 (209-225)

3 Jan 23. Legislators and Legislatures - 1

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch 6 (157-176)

Rosenthal (2004) ch 2-3 (16-54)

Clucas (2003)

Carey, Niemi and Powell (2000)

Berry, Berkman and Schneiderman (2000)

Recommended

Hogan 2004

Moncrief, Thompson and Cassie (1996)

Jewell 1994

Chubb (1988)

4 Jan 30. Legislators and Legislatures - 2

[Mooney 2004 on the IL General Assembly](#)

[Inquirer Article on PA Speaker](#)

Rosenthal (2004) ch 5-7 (57-163)

Squire and Hamm, ch 2-3

Recommended

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch. 6 (176-190)

Adams (1996)

Paper topics due on Feb 1

5 Feb 6. Parties

EWM, ch 5-6 (96-149)

Aldrich (2000)

Wright and Schaffner (2002)

Aldrich and Battista (2002)

Ansolabehere and Snyder (2004)

Alt and Lowry (2000)

6 Feb 13. Governors I

Paper draft due

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch. 7 (194-204)

Leal, ch. 2-3, 7 (19-64, 121-156)

?

7 Feb 20. Governors 2

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch. 7+ (195-229, 279-286)

Rosenthal (2004) ch. 8, 165-182

Abney 1997

Ferguson 2003

Dometrius 1987

Barrilleaux 2003

Recommended

Coffey 2005

8 Feb 27. Separation of Powers

Huber and Shipan (2002) ch. 1-4 (1-109)

Rosenthal (2004) ch. 9, 184-206

Bowling:2001 (182-204)

9 Mar 6. Health and Welfare Policy

Huber and Shipan (2002) ch. 5-6 (109-171)

Cantor in Van Horn, ch 10 (192-213)

Gray and Hanson (2004) ch 11 (318-353)

Lurie in Van Horn, ch 9 (167-190)

10 Mar 13. States and the Federal Arena

Gelman et al. (Forthcoming)

Lee (1998)

Shor (2006)

11 Mar 16. Final Paper Due

References

- Adams, Greg D. 1996. "Legislative Effects of Single-Member Vs. Multi-Member Districts." *American Journal of Political Science* 40(1):129-144.
- Aldrich, John H. 2000. "Presidential Address: Southern Parties in State and Nation." *The Journal of Politics* 62(3):643-670. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-38163E2.o.CO>
- Aldrich, John H. and James S. Coleman Battista. 2002. "Conditional Party Government in the States." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(1):164-172.
- Alt, James E. and Robert C. Lowry. 2000. "A Dynamic Model of State Budget Outcomes under Divided Partisan Government." *The Journal of Politics* 62:1035-1069.
- Ansolahehere, Stephen and Jr. Snyder, James M. 2004. "Redistricting: Case Law and Consequences." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* pp. 433-457.
- Berry, William D., Evan J. Ringquist, Richard C. Fording and Russell L. Hanson. 1998. "Measuring Citizen and Government Ideology in the American States, 1960-93." *American Journal of Political Science* 42(1):327-348.
- Berry, William D., Michael B. Berkman and Stuart Schneiderman. 2000. "Legislative Professionalism and Incumbent Reelection: The Development of Institutional Boundaries." *The American Political Science Review* 94(4):859-874.
- Brace, Paul and Aubrey Jewett. 1995. "The State of State Politics Research." *Political Research Quarterly* 48(3):643-681.
- Carey, John M., Richard G. Niemi and Lynda W. Powell. 2000. "Incumbency and the Probability of Reelection in State Legislative Elections." *The Journal of Politics* 62(3):671-700. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-38163E2.o.CO>
- Chubb, John E. 1988. "Institutions, The Economy, and the Dynamics of State Elections." *The American Political Science Review* 82(1):133-154. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-05543E2.o.CO>
- Clucas, Richard A. 2003. "Improving the Harvest of State Legislative Research." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 3(4):387-419.
- Gelman, Andrew, Boris Shor, Joseph Bafumi and David Park. Forthcoming. "Rich state, poor state, red state, blue state: What's the matter with Connecticut?" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* .
- Gray, Virginia and Russel L. Hanson, eds. 2004. *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis*. Eighth ed. CQ Press.
- Huber, John D. and Charles R. Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Cambridge University Press.

- Lee, Frances E. 1998. "Representation and Public Policy: The Consequences of Senate Apportionment for the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds." *Journal of Politics* 60(1).
- Moncrief, Gary, Joel A. Thompson and William Cassie. 1996. "Revisiting the State of U. S. State Legislative Research." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 21(3):301-335. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0362-98053E2.o.CO>
- Rosenthal, Alan. 2004. *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*. CQ Press.
- Shor, Boris. 2006. "A Bayesian Multilevel Model of Federal Spending, 1983-2001." Working paper.
- Wright, Gerald C. and Brian F. Schaffner. 2002. "The Influence of Party: Evidence from the State Legislatures." *The American Political Science Review* 96(2):367-379.