State and Local Politics
PSI 323 - 3 credits
Doane College – Full Term
August 20, 2015 to October 15, 2015

Description:
An analysis of political processes and behavior in state, metropolitan, and local governments. Required for Public Admin majors. Fulfills one Doane Plan Contemporary Issues requirement or one Doane Plan Liberal Learning requirement for everyone except Public Admin majors.

Location and Times:
Doane College - Lincoln
Thursdays, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Instructor: Jason W. Hayes, Adjunct Professor
Cell: 402-304-9414
E-mail: jason.hayes@doane.edu

Textbook Materials:

Foundational Area of Knowledge and Course Objectives:
The student, after completing the course instruction should have a heightened awareness of the following subject materials, representing the course goals and objectives:

(1) The structure of political institutions within NE state and local subdivisions.
(2) The legislative process concerning city ordinances and state statutes.
(3) The executive, legislative, and judicial office functions within state government.
(4) The political process as it relates to campaigns and policy decisions in Nebraska.
(5) Economic and financial issues pertaining to state and local government.

Description of Learning Strategies:
The following strategies will be utilized during the course to accomplish each of the course objectives outlined in the Foundational Area of Knowledge Section:

(1) Lecture
(2) Discussion
(3) Exercises and Simulations involving students
(4) Guest Speakers (if available)
(5) Readings
(6) Assignments to students
Assessment of Student Performance and Grading:
Students will be able to obtain a total of 300 points from assignments, discussions and examinations conducted during the course. The number of points that a student will be able to earn, is as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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Summary of Examinations and Assignments:

Final Examination: A final take home exam may consist of essays, multiple choice and short answer questions that will cover the entire content of the course.

State and Local Government Project: Each student will complete a project on either a local political subdivision or a specific piece of legislation before the Nebraska Legislature. This project will involve attending a public meeting outside of or during the class meeting times.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Student attendance at all class meetings is expected. If a student will be unable to attend a class meeting, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor and perform any necessary makeup or additional assignments given to the student by the instructor. Students should obtain class notes from a fellow classmate, and the absent student is responsible for all material covered on the day of the absence. Two or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade.

Grading Scale: The grading scale is based on a nine point, A, B, C, D, F scale, as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 – 96</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>94 – 95</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89 – 90</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 85</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>84 – 85</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79 – 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 75</td>
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Late Assignments: Assignments that are turned in late during the duration of the course are downgraded by one letter grade. For each additional week the assignment is late, an additional letter grade is reduced off the original score given. All assignments must be completed and handed in by October 15, 2015 to receive any credit.

Academic Integrity: The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.

Format of Writings: It is suggested that all writing assignments to be completed outside of class should be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and using a font no larger than 12 pt. in Times New Roman, Arial or Courier. If you have any questions regarding this requirement please contact your instructor.
PSI 323 – Course Schedule and Readings:

Aug 20  Chapter 1: Making a Case for the States
Aug 27  Chapter 2: States and the Federal System
Sept 3   Chapter 3: The Policy-making Environment of the States
          Chapter 4: The Policy-making Capacity of State Government
Sept 10  Chapter 5: Public Policy and the Role of States in a Changing Federal System
Sept 17  No Class.
Sept 24  Chapter 6: Elections and Political Parties
Oct  1   Chapter 7: State Fiscal Systems
          State and Local Government Project Due
Oct  8   Chapter 8: Why States Matter Now
          Handout: Local Government in Nebraska
          Final Exam Handed out
Oct 15   No Class.
          Final Exam Due