State and Local Politics
PSI 323 - 3 credits
Doane College – Winter II Term
January 16, 2013 to March 13, 2013

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
Wednesday, 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:

Course Objectives:
The student, after completing the course instruction should have a heightened awareness of the following subject materials:

(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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Project</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25</td>
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Summary of Examinations and Assignments:

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

**Midterm Examination:** A take home exam will consist of essays, multiple choice and short answer questions that will cover the first half of the course. Students may use their notes and reading materials, but are restricted from completing the exam with the help of another person.

**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:

- A+ 100 – 96
- A  95 – 90
- B+  89 – 85
- B   84 – 80
- C+  79 – 75
- C   74 – 70
- D+  69 – 65
- D   64 – 60
- F   59 – below

**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 March 13, 2013 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.
Course Schedule and Readings:

Jan 16  Chapter 1:  Introduction to State and Local Politics

Jan 23  Chapter 2:  Federalism: State Politics within a Federal System
                   Chapter 3:  Participation, Election and Representation

Jan 30  Chapter 4:  State and Local Direct Democracy
                   Chapter 5:  Political Parties
                   Midterm Handed Out

Feb 6   No Class

Feb 13  Chapter 6:  Interest Groups
                   Midterm Due

Feb 20  Chapter 7:  State Legislatures
                   Chapter 8:  Governors

Feb 27  Chapter 9:  The Court System
                   Chapter 10: Fiscal Policy

Mar 6   Chapter 11: The Structure of Local Government
                   Chapter 14: Social Welfare and Health Care Policy
                   State and Local Government Project Due
                   Final Exam Handed out

Mar 13  Final Exam Due – No Class