Instructor: Dr. Beth Rauhaus, Department of Political Science and International Affairs  
Office: 315 Hansford Hall  
Office Hours: Monday 8:45-9:45 am & 11-12  
Wednesday & Friday 11-12, 1-2 pm, or by appointment  
Contact Information: beth.rauhaus@ung.edu or (706) 867-2665  
*For a quick reply, please email me directly from your UNG email account and not through D2L.

Course Description: An examination of the organization and functions of the state and its political subdivisions. Wherever possible, the state government of Georgia will be studied for illustrative purposes. Pre-requisite: POLS 1101 or POLS 1101H

Course Objectives: The study of state and local government is very dynamic and complex due to the variations in governance across the United States. Therefore, we will explore governmental institutions primarily at the state, local and regional levels. We will understand:
- How federalism impacts contemporary governance
- How various governmental institutions function and interact with one another to provide governance
- The importance of the policymaking process and how policy decisions impact citizens
- How our local and state governments function and operate (theoretically and practically)

Required Reading Material:  
In order to excel in this course, you must read all of the assigned course readings. Basic, fundamental information will be provided in the textbook. We will also have additional readings posted to D2L or accessible through the library.  
The textbook is Politics and Policy in States and Communities, 11th edition by John J. Harrigan and David C. Nice.
**Course Assessment:** In order to assess our course objectives, we will be using a variety of assessments. We will be scored on a ten-point grading scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotations</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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800 points possible

**Course Grading Details:** The following graded activities will be required.

- **Discussion Boards:** We will have a total of ten graded discussion boards this semester. Each discussion board will be valued at 10 points each. Discussion boards will open on Monday at 8am and will close promptly at 6pm on Friday. Each discussion board corresponds the assigned module. *Please note: Some modules will last two weeks. In those incidents, the discussion board will be active during the second week to give everyone adequate time to complete the readings and activities prior to engaging in discussion.* In order to receive full credit, students must post at least two times and no more than four times in each discussion board. Your initial post must be received before Wednesday at 8am to give classmates adequate time to interact with you. Your grade will be based upon the quality of your posts. The goal of discussion boards is to ensure everyone is familiar with the theme of each module before completing quizzes and/or activities.

  - **Evaluation of Your Participation in Discussion Board:**
    - Each set of postings will be evaluated generally on the following: 1) overall quality, and 2) the degree they promote course learning through class discussion.
    - Participation on each of the Module discussion boards is required and grades for each discussion board will be given at the end of each learning module.
    - Postings should be concise, intentional and present your ideas clearly and coherently. Remember, this is the discussion component of an in-class course we are trying to create online.
    - Posting “I agree” or extemporaneous and random thoughts will receive no points and directly affect your participation evaluation. Profanity, inappropriate comments, or lack of sufficient commentary will result in an automatic zero for the discussion board.
    - I will grade your postings in the discussion board when the lesson has ended. Your grade will be available on D2L located under “Grades”. Excellent participation in the discussion board will result in a total of 20 points for each lesson. (In order to have your participation be considered “excellent”, you must demonstrate knowledge attained through readings. Therefore, it is necessary to allude to reading material in your discussion rather than rely on your reasoning alone.)
- Proper grammar and professional online etiquette is expected at all times.

- **Quizzes:** There will be a total of ten online quizzes available in D2L under the Quiz tab. Each quiz will be held on Friday to mark the end of the module. **Quizzes will be available from Friday at 8am – 6pm.** All quizzes will consist of fifteen multiple choice and/or true false questions, valued at two points each. Each quiz is worth 30 points. Students will have **20 minutes to complete each quiz.** Quizzes cannot be made up, unless the student has an approved, valid excuse. Please use the calendar in D2L to see reminders of upcoming quizzes as each module closes. Be sure to submit the quiz and look for the verification that you have completed the task. Quizzes are worth a total of 300 points.

- **Annotations:** Graduate students will be expected to find five academic peer-reviewed articles that may be used for the research paper and review each article briefly. This annotated bibliography will also contain a brief research proposal, which should be one page. **Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor via email or during office hours to seek approval prior to the completion of the project.** Annotations should be uploaded to Turnitin.com by **October 16th at 2pm.** This assignment is worth **100 points** and serves as the initial stage of completing the research paper.

- **Research Paper:** Throughout the remainder of the semester, graduate students should work independently on a research paper focusing on any topic relevant to state and local government and/or politics. This research paper may be approximately **20-25 pages in length and include a number of academic references.** You may use the sources from your annotations but you should also continue to find more resources to incorporate in your work. This **paper is worth 200 points and will be due in Turnitin.com on December 4th at 6pm.**

- **Final Exam:** There will be a final exam worth **100 points** held during finals week. Details on the format of the exam will be announced via D2L prior to the exam.

Written assignments will be uploaded to Turnitin.com, which detects plagiarism. To access our course (POLS 6106) in Turnitin.com, you will need the following log-in information:

- **Class ID:** 10327760
- **Password:** barn
Tips for success: In order to achieve success in this course, I recommend reviewing all notes and completing activities in each module prior to engaging in discussion boards and completing the quiz. Since this is an online course, it is imperative to take note of deadlines. Missed quizzes or discussion boards cannot be made-up. Late penalties will be applied to any written assignment submitted after the deadline. All written assignments should incorporate proper APA citations. A guide is available on the Political Science and International Affairs departmental web page. Failure to cite properly results in academic integrity violations.

Classroom Decorum:
1. In order to have an excellent learning environment online, basic classroom rules should be obeyed. Respect others' opinions and be courteous in all discussions. Graduate students will be interacting with undergraduate students in online discussions. Please serve as a model student.

2. Deadlines are firm. Assignments are not to be emailed to me, unless otherwise noted or approval is previously sought. Make-up examinations are not given. In the event of an emergency or excused absence, provide formal documentation (medical or university documentation) and speak with me during office hours or contact me via email to discuss the possibility of an alternate exam.

3. Grades will be posted in the program in which you submit your work. Therefore, quiz scores and discussion board grades will be available in D2L. Written assignments posted in Turnitin.com will be graded in that program. Be sure to check your grades and review any feedback the instructor provides. This will help you improve upcoming performances.

4. Due to the nature of an online course, it is important to upload your photo to your profile in D2L so the class is a bit more personable. While this course is fully online, you are welcome to meet me during office hours or by appointment on the Dahlonega campus.

Changes to the Syllabus: I reserve the right to change the syllabus as I deem appropriate and necessary, especially with regard to the day-to-day and week-to-week schedule. Any changes will be announced in D2L and found in the 'News' section.
# Fall 2015 Course Schedule

## MODULE 1- Introduction to the Course and D2L  Aug 17- 21
- Purchase textbook
- Read syllabus carefully
  - Quiz 1 – Friday, Aug. 21
- Email me at beth.rauhaus@ung.edu to ensure we have proper contact throughout the course.

## MODULE 2- Basics of State and Local Government  Aug 24-28
- Read Chapter 1 of text, Introduction to State and Local Government
- DB2- Becoming familiar with basic concepts
  - Quiz 2 – Friday, Aug. 28

## MODULE 3- Constitutional Principles  Aug 31- Sept 11
- Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7th.
- Read Chapter 2 of text, Constitutional Environment of State and Local
- Read Lupia and others’ “Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Marriage” in The Journal of Politics
  - DB 3- Comparing Constitutions (Due to Labor Day, DB will open Tuesday, Sept. 8th)
  - Quiz 3– Friday, Sept. 11

## MODULE 4- Intergovernmental Frameworks & Federalism  Sept 14-18
- Read Chapter 3 of text, Intergovernmental Framework for State and Local
  - Quiz 4– Friday, September 18th

## MODULE 5- Citizen Engagement and Influence  Sept 21- Oct. 2
- Read Chapters 4 & 5 of the text, Channels of Citizen Influence
- Read Hood and Bullock’s “Much Ado about Nothing? An Empirical Assessment of the Georgia Voter Identification Statute” in State Politics and Policy Quarterly
  - DB 5- Civic Engagement and Grassroots
  - Quiz 5– Friday, Oct. 2

## MODULE 6- Institutions of Local Government  Oct 5- 9
- Read Chapter 6 of the text, The Institutions of Local Government
  - DB 6- Issues in Local Institutions
  - Quiz 6 – Friday, Oct. 9th

**Annotations are due October 16th!** Use this time to continue building a solid literature review that will be used in your final research paper. Be sure to examine all feedback you may receive on your submission, as you move forward in completing the final research paper.

## MODULE 7- State Legislatures and Public Policy  Oct 19-30
- Read Chapter 8 of the text, State Legislatures and Public Policy
- Read Wright’s “Do Term Limits Affect Legislative Roll Call Voting? Representation, Polarization, and Participation” in State Politics and Policy Quarterly
- Read Monogan’s “The politics of immigrant policy in the 50 states, 2005- 2011” in *Journal of Public Policy*
  - DB 7 Comparing Legislatures
  - Quiz 7- Friday, Oct. 30th

**MODULE 8- Governors and Executives** Nov. 2- 13
- Read Ch. 9 of text, Governors and the Challenge of Executive Leadership
- Watch film assigned and linked in PowerPoint on Powerful Governors
- Read Heidbreder and Scheurer’s “Gender and the Gubernatorial Agenda” in *State and Local Government Review*
  - DB 8- Governors, Power, and Policy Making
  - Quiz 8- Friday, Nov. 13

**MODULE 9- Administrators and Policy** Nov. 16-20
- Read Ch. 10 of the text, Administrators and Policy Implementation
- Read Wilkins and Williams’ “Black or Blue: Racial Profiling and Representative Bureaucracy” in *Public Administration Review*
- Read Goodman’s "Determinants of Perceived Gubernatorial Budgetary Influence among State Executive Budget Analysts and Legislative Fiscal Analysts" in *Political Research Quarterly*
  - DB 9- Public Service and Street Level Bureaucrats Today
  - Quiz 9- Friday Nov. 20

**THANKSGIVING WEEK**- Fall Break! No assignments.

**MODULE 10- Economic and Environmental Policy** Nov. 30-Dec. 4
- Read Ch. 16 & 17 of the text, Regulating the Environment and State and Community Economic Development Policies
- Watch video on NIMBY linked in PowerPoint
- Read Brunori’s “Principles of Tax Policy and Targeted Tax Incentives” in *State and Local Government Review*
  - DB 10- Issues in the Environment and Economy in our communities
  - Quiz 10- Friday, Dec 4
  - **RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE on Friday, Dec. 4**

**FINAL EXAM** will be held online on Wednesday, Dec. 9th. Details will be forthcoming.

**Additional Information:**

Please visit the link below for additional information in the Supplemental Syllabus. [http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php](http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php)

For your information, the academic calendar is available here. [http://ung.edu/academics/academic-calendar.php](http://ung.edu/academics/academic-calendar.php)
All students enrolled in this course are expected and required to use APA style citations in ALL written assignments, including the Current Event Journal. For more information regarding the Department of Political Science and International Affair’s resources on APA citations and Research Resources, please visit https://my.ung.edu/departments/psia/Pages/Faculty-Research-Resources.aspx

For more information of using APA style citations and reference lists, I recommend using the following webpage. https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

If you require this document in another format, contact Andrew Eade at Andrew.eade@ung.edu or 706-864-1628.