**American State and Local Government         Fall 2015  
POS 2112 MW 8:30-9:20am (Period 2)**

[**101 Little Hall (LIT)**](http://campusmap.ufl.edu/?loc=0100)

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**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the politics, institutions, and policy processes of state and local governments in the United States. These governments play pivotal policy roles in health care, education, corrections, economic development, environmental protection, and welfare, to name a few. State and local governments are a permanent fixture in the lives of all people living in the United States, and their programmatic and fiscal roles have increased substantially relative to that of the federal government over the past 25 years. For this reason alone, it is useful for students to gain an intimate understanding of state and local government.

From a political science perspective, by comparing the similarities and differences between state and local governments, we will assess how (and if) variation across state and local political institutions affects the politics and policies of subnational governments. Leveraging the variation at the state and local levels, we will also gain a better understanding of how (and if) citizens’ attitudes shape the policies and political institutions that governments adopt.

We will take advantage of our location and focus considerable attention on the politics, governmental structures, and policies in Florida, Alachua County, and the City of Gainesville.  By examining our immediate surroundings, while noting the general patterns and differences across states and localities, we will be able to provide coherence that would not be possible in an effort to understand all state and local governments.

**Required Textbook & Readings**

Todd Donovan, Daniel A. Smith, Tracy Osborn, and Christopher Z. Mooney. 2014. [*State & Local Politics: Institutions and Reform*](http://www.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do;jsessionid=8B59F53FEDB4BE71E83D8457EAD492C4?N=16+4294922390+4294967248&Ntk=P_Isbn13&Ntt=9781285441405&Ntx=mode%2Bmatchallpartial). 4th Edition. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-285-44140-5 (on reserve at UF Library)

Embedded hyperlinks are available for all other readings in the syllabus.

Students should keep abreast of state and local politics in Florida. Here are two Florida political websites:

[**http://www.flapolitics.com/**](http://www.flapolitics.com/)[**http://www.sayfiereview.com/**](http://www.sayfiereview.com/)

**Attendance/Participation**Students are expected to do the readings, attend my general lectures, and participate in discussion sections.  My lectures will be organized around the topics and readings found in the schedule that follows. My lecture style is dynamic and interactive. In order for this to be a successful course, it is imperative that you do the assigned readings *before* class, give yourself time to think about them, and prepare yourself to discuss them in class and in your discussion section. You are encouraged to raise your hand, raise questions, clarify comments, and correct my mistakes (!). Really.

Attendance in your discussion section is mandatory, and the Teaching Assistants (TAs) will take attendance. You must attend the discussion section for which you are officially enrolled. If you cannot attend class on a regular basis, I would urge you to drop this class. Your attendance and participation (in your discussion section and in the general lecture) will count as 10% of your final grade.

**Short Essays**Students will write four short essays. These essays, which are aimed to increase student participation in discussion sections, are to be critical reflections on the questions posed in the syllabus each week. Students may choose from any of the 12 opportunities to write their four short essays.  Each short essay is to be roughly 800 words (two to three double-spaced pages in 12-point font) and may be written in the first person.  A reference page is only required if you’re drawing from or citing research not in the syllabus.

In addition to being succinct, well-organized, and well-edited, your essays should begin with a clear introductory statement of your argument, including supporting evidence, and most importantly, should answer the prompt.

A hard copy of your short essay is **due at the start** of your designated discussion section for the week of the assignment.  Each of the four short essays is worth five points, for a total of 20% of your final grade.  *TAs will accept no late short essays, no electronic submissions, nor essays on topics from other weeks*.

**Pop Quizzes**There will be 10 unannounced “pop” quizzes during my general lectures.  The quizzes will be on the on-line readings assigned for that class. Quizzes will typically be multiple choice or true/false questions and are designed to show evidence that you’ve done the readings. They are not “gotcha” quizzes. Each quiz is worth two points, for a total of 20% of your final grade.  Students will receive one point for an incorrect answer; two points for a correct answer. *No makeup quizzes will be permitted except for official University functions that are brought to Dr. Smith’s attention* ***prior*** *to the class you know you will miss.* I do not provide any makeup quizzes for sickness, family issues, or personal trials or tribulations; we all have them, occasionally.

**Exams**There are two in-class exams. Both will test your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures, discussion sections, and assigned readings.  The exams will have multiple choice and short essay questions.  Both are worth 25% of your final grade.  Makeup exams are not permitted except in extenuating circumstances, and may only be arranged by Dr. Smith (and not the TAs) prior to the exam. An unexcused absence on an exam results in a grade of 0%.

**Extra Credit**

Students may receive up to two points of extra credit toward their final grade by attending a city or county commission meeting (held downtown) and writing up a 2-3 page critical analysis of the proceedings. Here are the links to the [city](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/ClerkOfTheCommission/NoticeofMeetings/tabid/372/Default.aspx) and [county](http://meetingdocs.alachuacounty.us/meetings/) commissions’ scheduled meetings. Your critical analyses must be submitted to your TA during the discussion section of the week you attended the meeting.

**Summary of Grading**“Short Essays” 20% (4 x 5% each)  
“Pop” Quizzes                     20% (10 x 2% each)   
Exams                        50% (2 x 25% each)  
Discussion Section Participation      10%

**Grading**

The following cutoffs will be used for grades:

A     90-100

A- 88-89

B+    86-87

B     80-85

B- 78-79

C+    76-77

C     70-75

C- 68-69

D+    66-67

D 60-65

D- 58-59

E    57 & below

Grade Values for GPA Conversion

Letter A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- E

Grade 4.0 3.67 3.33 3.0 2.67 2.33 2.0 1.67 1.33 1.0 .67 0

For more information about UF’s Grades and Grade Policies: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

I do not “curve” exams or final grades.  As such, everyone in class may receive an ‘A.’ Only in the rarest of circumstances will I grant an Incomplete (‘I’) grade.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

The [UF Honor Code](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php) reads, in part: “I affirm that this work in its entirety is mine alone, and that I have received no outside assistance from anyone else, including classmates, other students, or faculty. I understand that plagiarism, seeking or receiving other unauthorized assistance, or any false representations regarding this exam [or other work] are serious offenses punishable under the Student Honor Code.” Any student transgressing UF’s Honor Code will receive an ‘E’ for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities for disciplinary action.

**Classroom Decorum**

This is a large lecture class. Please be respectful of those students around you. During lectures, you are welcome to use electronic devices in class, but only to take notes and pull up online materials. You are hereby advised that [Florida law forbids](http://www.rcfp.org/taping/) the recording or filming of conversations without the consent of all parties, and any rebroadcast of my lecture is strictly prohibited. If you’d like to record my lectures for your personal use, you must get my permission first. I expressly *do not* grant permission to copy, transcribe, reproduce, rebroadcast, sell, or otherwise publicly disseminate materials from my lectures.

**Students with Special Needs**

It is the responsibility of students requiring any special accommodation for this course to make an appointment to see me at the beginning of the semester.  I will make every effort possible to meet your needs in accordance to University guidelines.

**Office Hours**

If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to consult either me or your TA during our weekly office hours.  You may drop by during our scheduled office hours, or you may email us.

**Course Schedule**

**Section I: State Politics in a Federal System**

Lecture 1      *Course Overview: Studying State & Local Governments*

24 Aug Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 1

Sherman, “[Marco Rubio says a minor can get an abortion—but not a tattoo…](http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2015/aug/13/marco-rubio/marco-rubio-says-minor-can-get-abortion-not-tattoo/)”

Lecture 2     *Political Institutions and Cultures of State & Local Governments: The Comparative Method*

26 Aug Readings:

                                  Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 1

Weissert & Crew, “[Florida Module](http://people.clas.ufl.edu/dasmith/files/Florida_Module_password.pdf)” (password protected)

Discussion 1

27/28 Aug *Introduction of TAs and Students & the Comparative Method*

Lecture 3     *Florida’s Political History*

31 Aug Readings:

Colburn, “[Florida’s Megatrends](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/dasmith/flmega.pdf)” (Introduction)

Allman, [Finding Florida](https://books.google.com/books?id=5nrGAgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=florida+history&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCEQ6AEwAGoVChMIl9Heme2mxwIVi9UeCh3GWQom#v=onepage&q=florida%20history&f=false) (Prologue)

Romano, “[Sadly, Florida Politics has Even More of the Same](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/sadly-florida-politics-has-even-more-of-the-same/2137020)”

Lecture 4     *History of American Federalism*

2 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 2

Hamilton, “[Federalist #17](http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa17.htm)”

Madison, “[Federalist #45](http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa45.htm)”

Discussion 2  *Political Institutions and Cultures of State & Local Governments*

3/4 Sept **Short Essay #1 Due. Prompt:**

Knowing what you know about Florida’s political history, provide two explanations for why the Sunshine State continually is ranked as having the most [political corruption](http://tbo.com/ap/politics/study-ranks-florida-no--in-government-corruption-409916) in the country.

No Class: Labor Day

7 Sept

Lecture 5 *State Politics within a Federal System*

9 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 2

WSJ, “[Federalism and ObamaCare](http://www.wsj.com/articles/federalism-and-obamacare-1425513815)”

Clark, “[No Easy Options for Feds in Legal Marijuana States](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2013/04/12/report-no-easy-options-for-feds-in-legal-marijuana-states)”

Discussion 3 *Federalism: State Politics within a Federal System*

10/11 Sept **Short Essay #2 Due. Prompt:**

You are Alexander Hamilton. Write a memo to James Madison arguing that the federal government under the “new” (1787) Constitution hasthe power to regulate the growing and sale of marijuana, and that it shouldn’t be left up to the individual states.

**Section II: Linkages between Citizens and States**

Lecture 7 *Participation, Elections, and Representation*

14 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 3

Liptak, “[Error and Fraud at Issue as Absentee Voting Rises](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/07/us/politics/as-more-vote-by-mail-faulty-ballots-could-impact-elections.html?_r=0)”

Roth, “[Why Ohio’s early voting cuts hit African-Americans hardest](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/why-ohios-early-voting-cuts-hit-blacks-hardest)”

Lecture 8         *Participation, Elections, and Representation*

16 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 3

Wiltz, “[Racial Generation Gap Looms Large for States](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/1/16/racial-generation-gap-looms-large-for-states)”

Wiltz, “[Haitian-Americans Come of Age Politically](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/07/20/haitian-americans-come-of-age-politically)”

LPR, “[WHY MILLENNIALS DON’T VOTE FOR MAYOR](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CB8QFjAAahUKEwjP18eG4KbHAhWKFh4KHTZ_AJ0&url=http%3A%2F%2Fknightfoundation.org%2Fmedia%2Fuploads%2Fpublication_pdfs%2FKnightfdn_millennial_voting_report.pdf&ei=NurMVc_kLYqteLb-gegJ&usg=AFQjCNEkK1xN5S6lrK67P_yeDj0SK-Mx7Q&sig2=Io6N6qFuZoTaSxv1Dwe9hg&bvm=bv.99804247,d.dmo)

“[Florida Approves Online Voter Registration](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/news/2015/05/19/florida-approves-online-voter-registration)”

Discussion 4  *Participation, Elections and Representation*

17/18 Sept **Short Essay #3 Due. Prompt:**

Once implemented, the adoption of online voter registration in Florida will boost the turnout of young voters. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, and why?

Lecture 9 *Direct Democracy*

21 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 4

Malewitz, “[Cost of Walker Recall Effort Topped $80 million](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2012/07/26/report-cost-of-walker-recall-effort-topped-$80-million)”

Whyte, “[Ballot measure backers spend big, win big](http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/11/06/16229/ballot-measure-backers-spend-big-win-big)”

Lecture 10 *Direct Democracy*

23 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 4

Liptak, “[Secrecy Rejected on Ballot Petitions](http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9503E7DF163BF936A15755C0A9669D8B63&ref=adam_liptak)”

Dockery, “[Sen. Hays’ Amendment 1 op-ed fiction](http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/07/11/dockery-sen-hays-amendment-op-ed-fiction/29869787/)”

Discussion 5     *Direct Democracy*

24/25 Sept **Short** **Essay #4 Due. Prompt:**

Some scholars argue that ballot initiatives can drive turnout. What does this argument assume about citizens and ballot measures? Drawing on what you know about Florida’s initiative process, especially [United for Care](http://www.unitedforcare.org/petition)’s failed campaign in 2014 for medical marijuana and the [reelection of Governor Rick Scott](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/how-rick-scott-won-re-election-as-florida-governor/2205342), do you agree or disagree with this argument?

Lecture 11    *Political Parties*

28 Sept Readings:

                                          Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 5

Berman, “[Rand Paul Purchases a Path around an Inconvenient Kentucky Law](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/rand-paul-will-pay-for-kentuckys-gop-election-by-himself/401711/)” Colburn, “[One-party politics not what Founding Fathers had in mind](http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/column-one-party-politics-not-what-founding-fathers-had-in-mind/2241420)”

Perez-Verdia, “[Campaigns and Political Parties Need to Spice it Up](http://politicalpasion.com/2015/01/19/campaigns-and-political-parties-need-to-spice-it-up/)”

Lecture 12     *Political Parties*

30 Sept Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 5

Desilver, “[Ahead of redistricting, Democrats seek to reverse statehouse declines](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/03/02/ahead-of-redistricting-democrats-seek-to-reverse-statehouse-declines/)”

Klas, “[Is a politically unbiased map possible for Florida?](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/is-a-politically-unbiased-congressional-map-possible-for-florida/2241469)”

Klas, “[Group Proposes Amendment to open Florida’s Primaries to all Voters](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/article28063522.html)”

Discussion 6     *Political Parties*

1/2 Oct **Short Essay #5 Due. Prompt:**

Make the case for why Florida should not change its closed primary system to a [blanket primary system](http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-open-up-florida-primary-elections/2241419).

Lecture 13 *Interest Groups*

5 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 6

Nichols, “[Don’t Just Pressure ALEC Sponsors, Name and Shame ALEC Legislators](http://www.thenation.com/blog/167269/dont-just-pressure-alecs-sponsors-name-and-shame-alec-legislators)”

WFTV, “[League of Women Voters works to help voters understand amendments](http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/league-women-voters-works-help-voters-understand-a/nStdX/)”

Perez & Sirota, “<http://www.ibtimes.com/election-2016-jeb-bush-speech-denouncing-lobbyists-was-organized-corporate-lobbying-2018550>”

Lecture 14       *Interest Groups*

7 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 6

DeSlatte, “[$120m spent so far on lobbying in Tallahassee](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-08-16/news/os-central-florida-lobbyist-whos-who-2-20130815_1_lobbyists-south-florida-local-governments)”

Whyte, “[Alcohol Distributors Ply Statehouses to Keep Profits Flowing](http://time.com/3986536/alcohol-distributors-lobbying/)”

Ray, “[One-Man Lobby Shops do Nicely in 2015 Q2](http://floridapolitics.com/archives/187921-one-man-lobby-shops-do-nicely-in-2015-q2)”

Discussion 7   *Interest Groups*

8/9 Oct **Short Essay #6 Due. Prompt:**

Drawing on recent examples in Florida to inform your response, do you think lobbyists benefit the representation of ordinary citizens’ interests? Why or why not?

Lecture 15       *Elections and Representation: Campaign Finance*

12 Oct Readings:

Fineout, “[Florida’s Political Parties Rake in Money during Session](http://tbo.com/news/politics/floridas-political-parties-rake-in-money-during-session-20150411/?page=1)”

Wallace, “[Florida Republican Party battles slump in fundraising](http://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-republican-party-battles-slump-in-fundraising/2239859)”

Shanton & Underhill, “[Citizens United and the States](http://ncsl.typepad.com/the_thicket/2012/10/as-any-swing-state-resident-will-tell-you-2012-has-been-a-bumper-year-for-campaign-ads-swing-states-across-the-country.html)”

Goodman, “[Supreme Court Rules Corporations Can Spend in State Elections](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2012/06/25/supreme-court-rules-corporations-can-spend-in-state-elections)”

Stinson, “[Money Pours into State Races as Stakes Rise](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/08/29/money-pours-into-state-races-as-stakes-rise)”

***1st EXAM***

14 Oct          In*-*Class *(closed book, closed notes)*

15/16 Oct No Discussion Sections

**Section III: Institutions and Processes**

Lecture 16       *State Legislatures*

19 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 7

Wallace & Klas, “[Florida Senate admits map it drew is unconstitutional](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/article29133511.html)”

Van Sickler, “[One-third of Florida Legislature faces no opposition at polls](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/elections/one-third-of-florida-legislature-faces-no-opposition-at-polls/2185371)”

Stinson, “[Despite Huge Victories, Republicans face some Obstacles](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/1/12/despite-huge-victories-republicans-face-some-obstacles)”

Lecture 17      *State Legislatures*

21 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 7

Mitchell, “[Political Intrigue in Senate President Vote](http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2015-07-18/story/political-intrigue-senate-president-vote)”

Dockery, “[Early Supporters get the plum positions](http://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2014/12/13/dockery-early-supporters-get-plum-positions/20325003/)”

Van Sickler, “[Even after the gift ban and reform, freebies flow to Florida lawmakers](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/even-after-the-gift-ban-and-reform-freebies-flow-to-florida-lawmakers/2225965)”

Discussion 8   *State Legislatures*

22/23 Oct **Short Essay #7 Due. Prompt:**

Florida has a part-time (sometimes called “hybrid”) legislature, which has led some members to become [creative](http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/florida/2015/08/8574193/workman-house-rules-chair-day-uber-driver-night) (as Marc Caputo, notes) when filling their free time in Tallahassee. Do you think the citizens of Florida would benefit if the legislature became a fulltime body?

Lecture 18      *Governors*

26 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 8

Smith, “[How Rick Scott won re-election as Florida governor](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/how-rick-scott-won-re-election-as-florida-governor/2205342)”

Perez, Sirota, Cook, “Jeb Bush Leveraged Political Connections for Clients and Allies…”

Dixon, “[Gov. Rick Scott laid off more state workers last year than previous 5 combined](http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2013-01-04/story/gov-rick-scott-laid-more-state-workers-last-year-previous-5-combined#ixzz2HDWE0NJZ)”

Lecture 19      *Governors*

28 Oct Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 8

Vock, “[Govs enjoy quirky veto power](http://www.pewstates.org/projects/stateline/headlines/govs-enjoy-quirky-veto-power-85899386875)”

Mistler, “[LePage’s vetoes came too late, so 65 laws stand](http://www.pressherald.com/2015/08/06/maines-high-court-spurns-lepage-in-veto-dispute/)”

Robles, et al., “[Nikki Haley, SC Governor, Calls for Removal of Confederate Battle Flag](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/23/us/south-carolina-confederate-flag-dylann-roof.html?_r=0)”

Discussion 9    *Governors*

29/30 Oct **Short Essay #8 Due. Prompt:**

Some governors have limited institutional powers to do their jobs. Make an argument against curtailing their formal powers, contending that gubernatorial power should be as expanded.

Lecture 20   *State Courts*

2 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 9

Liptak, “[Rendering Justice, with one Eye on Reelection](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/25/us/25exception.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=rendering%20justice%20liptak&st=cse&oref=slogin)”

Rayfield, “[Conservatives Fail to Oust Judges in Iowa and Florida](http://www.salon.com/2012/11/07/conservatives_fail_to_oust_judges_in_iowa_and_florida/)”

Stinson, “[High Court to Decide: Can State Judicial Candidates Ask for Campaign Money?](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/1/14/high-court-to-decide-can-state-judicial-candidates-ask-for-campaign-money)”

Lecture 21        *State Courts*

4 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 9

Davis, “[Power of the Florida court system at the center of Amendment 5](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/elections/power-of-the-florida-court-system-at-the-center-of-amendment-5/1258538)”

Krueger, “[Stetson law prof took Gideon case to Supreme Court](http://www.tampabay.com/news/courts/stetson-law-prof-took-gideon-case-to-supreme-court-but-believed-in-the/2224993)”

No Discussions: Homecoming

5/6 Nov

**Section III: State & Local Public Policy**

Lecture 22       *Local Government*

9 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 11

Bergal, “[Cities Forge Policy Apart From States](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/1/15/cities-forge-policy-apart-from-states)”  
 Henderson, “[San Francisco Shoot, New Federal Policy Put Pressure on Sanctuary Cities](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/08/04/san-francisco-shooting-new-federal-policy-put-pressure-on-sanctuary-cities)”

[Gainesville Mayor and City Commission](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/MayorCityCommission/tabid/362/Default.aspx) (explore)

[Alachua County Board of Commissioners](http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/BOCC/Pages/BOCC.aspx) (explore)

No Class: Veterans Day

11 Nov

Discussion 10    *Local Politics*

12/13 Nov **Short Essay #9 Due. Prompt:**

Citing poor turnout, the Gainesville City Commission is considering changing the timing of its mayoral and city commission races from the Spring to General Elections held in November. Make an argument for why this is a bad policy decision.

Lecture 23   *Fiscal Policy & Budgeting*

16 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 10

Povich, “[States Debate Who’s Helped, Hurt in Shifting Tax Burdens](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/5/06/states-debate-whos-helped-hurt-in-shifting-tax-burdens)”

Bousquet: “[Bush and Scott Budget Vetoes: A Tale of Two Governors](http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/legislature/steve-bousquet-bush-and-scott-budget-vetoes-a-tale-of-two-governors/2238057)”

Dockery, “[What happened to that $1.8b surplus?](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/07/04/happened-billion-surplus/29715165/)”

Lecture 24 *Morality Policy*

18 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 13

Soffen, “[How Texas Could Set National Template for Limiting Abortion Access](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/20/upshot/how-texas-could-set-national-template-for-limiting-abortion-access.html?ref=politics&smid=tw-upshotnyt&smtyp=cur&_r=0&abt=0002&abg=1)”

Cooper, “[Colorado profits, but still divided on legal weed](http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/08/16/17841/colorado-profits-still-divided-legal-weed)”

Kam, “[…legal battle over drug testing of state workers](http://www.orlandoweekly.com/Blogs/archives/2015/04/21/gov-rick-scott-state-workers-union-end-costly-legal-battle-over-drug-testing-of-state-workers)”

Discussion 11  *Fiscal Policy and Morality Policy*

19/20 Nov **Short Essay #10 Due. Prompt:**

Looking at this [map](http://big.assets.huffingtonpost.com/Abortion2013_0.png) from 2013, provide three hypotheses for why some states enacted more restrictions on women wanting to obtain an abortion than other states. Evaluating each, which of the three hypotheses do you think carries the most weight in explaining the variation across the states, and why?

Lecture 25   *Social Welfare and Health Care Policy*

23 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 14

Greenberg, “[Gov. Rick Scott shifts again on Medicaid expansion](http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2015/apr/07/rick-scott/scott-shifts-again-medicaid-expansion/)”

Vestal, “[More States Lean Toward Medicaid Expansion](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/1/28/more-states-lean-toward-medicaid-expansion)”

No Class: Thanksgiving Break

25 Nov

No Discussions: Thanksgiving Break

26/27 Nov

Lecture 25   *Social Welfare and Health Care Policy*

30 Nov Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 14

Kaiser, “[Interactive: A State-by-State Look at How the Uninsured Fare under the ACA](http://kff.org/interactive/uninsured-gap/)”

Torres, “[In Tampa Bay, this is what child poverty looks like](http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/in-tampa-bay-this-is-what-child-poverty-looks-like/2238726)”

Lecture 26        *Education* *Policy*

2 Dec Readings:

Donovan, Mooney, & Smith, chapter 15

Bryant, “[The big Jeb Bush charter school lie](http://www.salon.com/2015/08/12/the_big_jeb_bush_charter_school_lie_how_florida_became_a_cautionary_tale_for_the_rest_of_the_country_partner/)”

SEF, “[Low Income Students Now a Majority in the Nation’s Public Schools](http://www.southerneducation.org/Our-Strategies/Research-and-Publications/New-Majority-Diverse-Majority-Report-Series/A-New-Majority-2015-Update-Low-Income-Students-Now)” & [Map](http://datatools.urban.org/features/school-poverty/map1.html)

Quinton, “[States to Colleges: Prove You’re Worth It](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/07/28/states-to-colleges-prove-youre-worth-it)”

Discussion 12  *Social Welfare and Health Care Policy*

3/4 Dec **Short Essay #11 Due. Prompt:**

Drawing on data from other states, write a memo to [Governor Scott, arguing that he was correct](http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2015/apr/07/rick-scott/scott-shifts-again-medicaid-expansion/) when he *supported* expanding Medicaid in Florida.

Lecture 27 *Review Session*

7 Dec

***2nd EXAM***

9 Dec In-Class *(closed book, closed notes)*