

**POLS 5325
Fall 2020**

**State Politics
Tuesday 7:00 – 9:50 PM
Online Course**

Instructor: Dr. Brent Boyea

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15AM-12:00PM, by email or appointment using Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3ac0851af16aa44122be44643762963468%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=60ab3bce-e145-4ca4-9906-9a3cfbcdcc22&tenantId=5cdc5b43-d7be-4caa-8173-729e3b0a62d9>

I. Course Modality

The course is listed as “online synchronous” in MyMav. Weekly class meetings will be conducted through Microsoft Teams and are fully synchronized. Class meetings, promptly beginning at 7PM, will focus on that week’s topic(s) of discussion, student interaction and debate, and class announcements. During our online classes, we will discuss the major themes for the week and the readings. Student leaders and all other students will have opportunities to discuss the topics and readings. Following our online session, students will be required to review topic presentations from their fellow students. For a schedule of synchronized class meetings, see the schedule below.

II. Introduction:

This course is designed to examine state politics with the intent to familiarize students with the questions, approaches, and issues involved in the study of the American states. Our focus during the semester will be far ranging, beginning with recent surveys of the study of state politics and government. We will then proceed to a discussion of the historical development of the states and their unique position vis-à-vis the national government, followed by an examination of the forces shaping the context of state politics, state institutions, political organizations, and the policy process in the states. Throughout the course, we will consider the limits and possibilities of state governments, both in theory and in practice.

A major advantage of studying state politics is the leverage that one gains from considering important theoretical questions that are central to the study of politics, not just state politics. As such, state politics offers the opportunity to ascertain with better clarity the impact of political environments, public opinion, and institutional designs on political outcomes. Most important, the study of state politics can offer answers to questions that may elude most other subfields in political science. Owing to problems associated with inferences made from single institutions like the US Congress or widely varying quality in data and cultural/language differences that exist across countries, state politics serves as fertile avenue for exploring many of today’s most pertinent political questions.

III. Required Text:

There are eight required books for this class. Five of the textbooks, however, are available digitally through the university library. Each is also available for purchase at the University Bookstore or through an on-line bookseller. If purchasing on-line, use expedited shipping as readings will begin immediately.

1. Damon Cann and Jeff Yates. 2016. *These Estimable Courts: Understanding Public Perceptions of State Judicial Institutions and Legal Policy-Making*. New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN-9780199307210)
 - Full text available through university library – <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199307210.001.0001/acprof-9780199307210> (cut and paste)
2. Robert Erikson, Gerald Wright, and John McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN – 9780521424059)
3. Andrew Gelman. 2008 (2010 Expanded Edition). *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (ISBN – 9780691143934)
 - Full text available through university library - <https://doi-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/10.1515/9781400832118>
4. Matt Grossmann. 2019. *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN – 9781108701754).
 - Full text available through university library - <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569187>
5. Andrew Karch. 2007. *Democratic Laboratories: Policy Diffusion among the American States*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (ISBN – 9780472069682)
 - Full text available through university library - <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utar/detail.action?docID=3414804>
6. Thad Kousser and Justin H. Phillips. 2012. *The Power of American Governors: Winning on Budgets and Losing on Policy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN – 9781107611177)
7. Raymond La Raja and Brian Schaffner. 2015. *Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (ISBN – 9780472052998)
 - Full text available through university library - <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utar/detail.action?docID=4312079>
8. Robert Mickey. 2015. *Paths out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America's Deep South, 1944-1972*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (ISBN – 9780691149639)
 - Full text available through university library – <https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/j.ctt7t1q8>
9. Prepared Articles on Canvas. To access Canvas, visit <https://www.uta.edu/provost/Canvas/uta-canvas-login.php> or contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at 817-272-2208.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation – Classes will be conducted online through MS Teams and attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to promptly log-on to MS Teams before 7PM on class night and should be prepared to discuss each week's readings. Class participation

should reflect careful thinking about the readings. On Wednesdays prior to class, a series of questions (three to five) will be posted in Canvas (located in the Discussions page). These questions are intended to direct students to the major ideas/debates from the readings. Each student will also be assigned readings from several weeks of the semester; whereby, students will be responsible for discussing the articles for that week as an in-class leader (see below under “Student Leader/Topic Presentations”). While all students are expected to complete the readings and be prepared to discuss the week’s readings, participation as the topic leader will provide students with opportunities to demonstrate broader command of the week’s subject.

2. Student Leader/Topic Presentations - Students will be required to summarize the materials for three separate weeks of readings. Student leaders will create a brief PowerPoint presentation (approximately 5 slides) to be uploaded to Canvas. Student presentations will then be incorporated into the class meeting. There is flexibility with the format of the presentations (e.g., text with audio, illustrations with audio, video, or a combination), but presentations must describe the contributions of the readings relating to their theory, hypotheses, data/methodology, and conclusions. Connections between the readings must be made with consideration about how the readings tie to the larger subject. Presentations must be uploaded to the “Topic Presentations” link in the Assignments page in Canvas by 9AM of the morning of our class. Presentations will then be available to all students in the “Discussion” link at 7PM on Tuesday. Weekly leader assignments will be distributed on September 1st and presentations will begin on September 8th. Presentations received after 9AM will receive a 30-point grade penalty.
3. Readings List – Each student is required to select one weekly theme between Week 3 (Public Opinion) and Week 15 (Southern Politics) and develop a comprehensive readings list of publications connected to that state politics topic. Readings lists may include books, articles, and book chapters published since 2000 (not before). Though not required, students may connect their list to their research paper. Readings should be organized by subtopic and organized alphabetically by author(s) and date of publication. Citations should be in APA format style. Examples of APA format can be found at: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html. Completed readings lists are due on November 10th and must be uploaded to the “Readings List” link in the Assignments page in Canvas by the beginning of class. Late submissions will result in a 30-point grade penalty.
4. Research Paper Proposal - Each student is required to write a semester research paper relating to a theme within state politics research (e.g., voter identification laws, early voting, voting by mail, characteristics of contributors, political primaries, redistricting and gerrymandering, term limits, public health policy, etc.). Research should be independent and include the general components of a research design, including a research question, literature review, and several well-stated and theoretically sound hypotheses. Further, introductory quantitative analysis is required as a component of the paper, meaning the use of data and state-level datasets to test theoretical assumptions using descriptive statistics and perhaps causal statistics (i.e., chi-squared test). Causal statistics, however, are not required or expected. A list of acceptable datasets will be distributed towards the beginning of the semester. A single-spaced one-page research proposal with a specific research question, several primary hypotheses, relevant non-class literature, the source of the data, and the justification for the topic is due on October 6th. Proposals must be uploaded to the “Research Proposal” link in the Assignments page in Canvas by the beginning of class. Late submissions will result in a 30-point grade penalty.
5. Research Paper – Building upon the topic selected in the proposal, research papers should reflect a thorough semester project. Students should aim for about a 12-15 page paper.

Completed papers are due by the beginning of class on December 8th and must be uploaded to the “Research Paper” link in the Assignments page in Canvas. Late papers will not be accepted.

V. Grading

Grades will be posted on Canvas. To access grades on Canvas, log in with your UTA email address and password at uta.instructure.com. If you have difficulty with Canvas, visit <https://www.uta.edu/provost//Canvas/uta-canvas-login.php> or contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at 817-272-2208. The grade components of the course are:

1. Attendance and Participation – 15%
2. Topic Presentation – 25%
3. Readings List – 15%
4. Research Paper Proposal – 10%
5. Research Paper – 35%

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Policy on incomplete grades (I’s): Given that an incomplete grade can be a permanent grade assignment, incompletes are strongly avoided. An incomplete grade will be assigned only in the most extreme cases of sickness that occur after the university’s withdrawal deadline.

VI. Class Schedule:

Week 1: September 1

Introduction to the Course and Review of Syllabus

Week 2: September 8

Studying State Politics and Comparative Research

- Media: “Federal Agencies Agree to Withdraw from Portland, With Conditions.” In Canvas.
- Malcolm Jewell. 1982. “The Neglected World of State Politics” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2130511>
- Sean Nicholson-Crotty and Kenneth Meier. 2002. “Size Doesn’t Matter: In Defense of Single-State Studies” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/40421473>
- Sarah Morehouse and Malcolm Jewell. 2004. “States as Laboratories: A Reprise” <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.7.012003.104913>
- Christopher Mooney. 2009. “Term Limits as a Boon to Legislative Scholarship: A Review” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/40421636>

Week 3: September 15

Public Opinion

- Media: “A Liberal Town Built Around Confederate Generals Rethinks Its Identity - The New York Times.” In Canvas.
- Robert S. Erikson, Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Additional student leader reading: Devin Caughey and Christopher Warshaw. 2016. “The Dynamics of State Policy Liberalism, 1936–2014”
<https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/24877462>

Week 4: September 22

Public Opinion continued

- Media: “Blue States Deserve Money from Washington.” In Canvas.
- Andrew Gelman. 2008 (2010 Expanded Edition). *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Additional student leader reading: Patrick Miller and Pamela Conover. 2015. “Red and Blue States of Mind: Partisan Hostility and Voting in the United States”
<https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/24371828>

Week 5: September 29

Political Parties

- Media: “Gov. Greg Abbott Criticized by Fellow Republicans on Coronavirus Response.” In Canvas.
- James Gibson, Cornelius Cotter, John Bibby, and Robert Huckshorn. 1983. “Assessing Party Organizational Strength” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2111015>
- Charles J. Barrilleaux. 1986. “A Dynamic Model of Partisan Competition in the American States” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2111275>
- Devin Caughey, Christopher Warshaw, and Yiqing Xu. 2018. “Incremental Democracy: The Policy Effects of Partisan Control of State Government” <http://tinyurl.com/yysc3ez4>
- Paul Herrnson. 2009. “The Roles of Party Organizations, Party-Connected Committees, and Party Allies in Elections” <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/10.1017/s0022381609990065>
- Additional student leader reading: Thad Kousser, Scott Lucas, Seth Masket and Eric McGhee. 2015. “Kingmakers or Cheerleaders? Party Power and the Causal Effects of Endorsements”
<https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/24637786>

Week 6: October 6

State Legislatures

- Media: Powerful Ohio Republican Is Arrested in \$60 Million Corruption Scheme.” In Canvas.
- Wayne Francis, 1985. “Leadership, Party Caucuses, and Committees in U. S. State Legislatures”
<https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/439726>
(Party Structure/Leadership)

- Peverill Squire, 1988. "Member Career Opportunities and the Internal Organization of Legislatures" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2131465> (Ambition)
- Nicholas Carnes and Eric Hansen. 2016. "Does Paying Politicians More Promote Economic Diversity in Legislatures?" <http://tinyurl.com/yyaso33b> (Composition)
- Alexander Fourinaies. 2018. "When Are Agenda Setters Valuable?" <http://tinyurl.com/y67psq5f> (Responsiveness/Contributions)
- Additional student leader reading: Christopher Mooney. 2013. "Measuring State House Speakers' Formal Powers, 1981-2010" <https://journals-sagepub-com.ezproxy.uta.edu/doi/pdf/10.1177/1532440013484478> (Leadership)

Week 7: October 13

Legislative Term Limits and Redistricting

- Media: "Eric Holder's Gerrymander Doctrine." In Canvas.
- Thad Kousser. 2006. "The Limited Impact of Term Limits" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/41289399>
- Andrew Hall. 2014. "Partisan Effects of Legislative Term Limits" <http://tinyurl.com/y2vvnv7a8>
- Michael Olson and Jon Rogowski. 2020. "Legislative Term Limits and Polarization" <http://tinyurl.com/y536lf8m>
- David Lublin and D. Stephen Voss. 2000. "Racial Redistricting and Realignment in Southern State Legislatures" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2669282>
- Brian F. Schaffner, Michael W. Wagner, and Jonathan Winburn. 2004. "Incumbents Out, Party In? Term Limits and Partisan Redistricting in State Legislatures" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/40421528>
- Additional student leader reading: Caroline J. Tolbert, Daniel A. Smith, and John C. Green. 2009. "Strategic Voting and Legislative Redistricting Reform: District and Statewide Representational Winners and Losers" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/27759848>

Week 8: October 20

Governors and the Executive Branch

- Media: "Governors Who Took Strict Measures on Coronavirus Are Seeing Better Political Outcomes." In Canvas.
- Thad Kousser and Justin H. Phillips. 2012. *The Power of American Governors: Winning on Budgets and Losing on Policy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Week 9: October 27

Elections: Voting

- Media: "Here's the problem with mail-in ballots: They might not be counted." In Canvas.
- Ronald Weber, Harvey Tucker, and Paul Brace. 1991. "Vanishing Marginals in State Legislative Elections" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/439965>

- Brian Schaffner, Matthew Streb, and Gerald Wright. 2001. "Teams without Uniforms: The Nonpartisan Ballot in State and Local Elections" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/449205>
- Thomas Carsey and Gerald Wright, 1998. "State and National Factors in Gubernatorial and Senatorial Elections" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2991738>
- Robert Erikson, Olle Folke, and James Snyder, Jr. 2015. "A Gubernatorial Helping Hand? How Governors Affect Presidential Elections" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/10.1086/680186>
- Burden 2018. "Disagreement over ID Requirements and Minority Voter Turnout" <http://tinyurl.com/yygsbdnk>

Week 10: November 3

Elections: Contributions

- Media: "How Citizens United Gave Republicans a Bonanza of Seats in U.S. State Legislatures." In Canvas.
- Raymond La Raja and Brian Schaffner. 2015. *Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail*.

Week 11: November 10

State Courts

- Media: "Breaking with Tradition, Some Judges Speak Out on Racial Injustices." In Canvas.
- Damon Cann and Jeff Yates. 2016. *These Estimable Courts: Understanding Public Perceptions of State Judicial Institutions and Legal Policy-Making*.
- Additional student leader reading: Paul Brace and Brent Boyea. 2008. "State Public Opinion, the Death Penalty and the Practice of Electing Judge" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/25193818>

Week 12: November 17

Federalism and State Policymaking

- Media: "Supreme Court says a state may require presidential electors to support its popular-vote winner." In Canvas.
- Andrew Karch. 2007. *Democratic Laboratories: Policy Diffusion among the American States*.

Week 13: November 24

No class

Week 14: December 1

State Policymaking

- Matt Grossmann. 2019. *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*.
- Additional student leader reading: William Hicks, Seth McKee, Mitchell Sellers, and Daniel Smith. 2015. "A Principle or a Strategy? Voter Identification Laws and Partisan Competition in the American States" <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/24371969>

Week 15: December 8

Southern Politics

- Media: “Mississippi Legislature Passes Bill to Change State Flag.” In Canvas.
- Robert Mickey. 2015. *Paths out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America’s Deep South, 1944-1972*. Selected chapters.
- Additional student leader reading: Lupton and McKee. 2020. “Dixie’s Drivers: Core Values and the Southern Republican Realignment” <http://tinyurl.com/y4ejz8po>

Journal Key:

American Journal of Political Science - AJPS

American Political Science Review – APSR

American Politics Quarterly - APQ

American Politics Research – APR

Annual Review of Political Science – ARPS

Journal of Politics – JOP

Legislative Studies Quarterly - LSQ

Political Research Quarterly – PRQ

State Politics and Policy Quarterly – SPPQ

Western Political Quarterly – WPQ

VII. A Note on the Readings

From time to time, website links in the syllabus will change or stop working. Remember that publication links are provided as a courtesy. Each of the readings not posted in Canvas can be found through online databases managed by the university, including [JSTOR](#) and [Worldwide Political Science Abstracts](#). If you have questions about searching for an article or would like a tutorial on database research, please contact the university library. The library’s liaison to the Department of Political Science is Andy Herzog (https://libguides.uta.edu/prf.php?account_id=251).

Remember that links work best when physically at the university. Given the new Covid-19 environment, however, I strongly encourage students to take time in the early portion of the semester to test access to the readings. Also, I advise using an off-campus connection that utilizes a virtual private network (VPN), which makes off-campus downloads easier. VPN software can be downloaded through UTA’s Office of Information Technology (see <https://oit.uta.edu/services/vpn/>).

VIII. Core Expectations, Communication and Citizenship

Expectations of Students

I have strong yet reasonable expectations for students. To perform well, students are expected to work - meaning in this online course (1) careful attention to the readings, (2) participation in Teams meetings is required, and (3) completion of the assignments. Students that do not carefully read the assigned material or participate in meetings will have a more difficult time with this course. Additionally, I encourage students to use my office hours via Teams. Where questions arise about the content of the course or a student’s grade, office hours represent important opportunities for interaction between students and their instructor. If something is unclear to you, it is your responsibility to seek the answer in a timely manner.

Communication

The University has supplied all students with an official email address. All communication will be directed to you through that address and Canvas. As such, you are responsible for checking your e-mail regularly. Per university policy, I will not respond to non-university email addresses. Also, remember to formalize your email by addressing the e-mail, providing a proper subject, and always signing your email. Note that one-line comments or questions are not enough for me to know what you are trying to say - be sure to provide enough detail about the context of your comment or question to allow a sufficient answer on my part.

IX. Special Notes:

1. Test Conduct – Examinations are closed book. Cell phones, textbooks, and the internet are prohibited during examinations.
2. Academic Integrity - All students are expected to obey the civil and penal statutes of the State of Texas and the United States, the Regents' Rules and Regulations of The University of Texas System, the rules and regulations of the University, and the orders or instructions issued by an administrative official of the University or U.T. System in the course of his/her duties, and to observe standards of conduct that are compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Any student found to engage in cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will be sanctioned.
3. Inclement Weather – Though this course is online, if the university is closed due to inclement weather, online meetings will be delayed until the following class. Similarly, all tests canceled because of inclement weather will be delivered during the following class. For information related to weather related class cancellations please call (972) 601-2049.
4. Campus Carry - Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.
5. Students with Disabilities - Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with me via Microsoft Teams during the first two weeks of the course. All discussions will remain confidential.
6. Discrimination Policy – The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.
7. Title IX Policy - The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact the Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091.
8. Student Support Services - The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. Among the support services on campus, the IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an

appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593. For more information, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources.

9. Emergency Phone Numbers - In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. The non-emergency number is 817-272-3381.
10. Syllabus Changes – The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester.