

GOVT 3323
American Federalism
Fall 2009
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brian Bearry
Office: GR 3.810 ext 4966
Office hrs: F, noon—2:00 pm; and by appointment
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Required texts:

Frederick Drake, ed. *States' Rights and American Federalism*. Greenwood Press.

Laurence O'Toole, ed. *American Intergovernmental Relations*, 4th ed. CQ Press.

Joseph Zimmerman, *Contemporary American Federalism: The Growth of National Power*, 2nd ed. SUNY Press

Hamilton, Madison, Jay. *Federalist Papers*

These papers may be found at: <http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/federalist/>

Tocqueville, Alexis, *Democracy in America*, Volume 1, part 1, ch 5:
(http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/1_ch05.htm)

The U.S. Constitution may be found at:
<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.txt>

Course description and objectives:

This is an introductory course to the principle of American federalism. We will explore the connections between national, state and local governments with an emphasis on the intergovernmental relationship between the national and state governments. The purpose is to understand contemporary politics and policy within the framework of the federal principle, and to this end the course is divided into three sections. In the first part of the course we will investigate the origins, theory and constitutional underpinning of American federalism. In the second unit, we will explore the development of cooperative federalism with a view to its impact on rights and contemporary public policy. The final part of the course will examine the current understanding of intergovernmental relationships and how these relationships are comprehended to affect cutting-edge politics and policy.

Course requirements, attendance policy and grading:

There will be three exams, each weighted at 30% of your final grade. 10% of your final grade will be determined by attendance and quiz performance. Failure of four quizzes will result in the loss of 5% of your participation grade; failure of six quizzes will result in the loss of your full participation grade. There will be a grade reduction of 5% of your course grade for every two additional quiz failures. Grades are determined at the instructor's discretion; and the instructor retains the right to alter the syllabus at any time. Attendance is expected and required. The exams will consist almost equally of lecture and reading material. All exams and the course grade will be determined by the following scale:

Grading scale:

A: 94-100	B-: 80-83	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-93	C+: 77-79	D: 64-66
B+: 87-89	C: 74-76	D-: 60-63
B: 84-86	C-: 70-73	F: below 60

Class rules:

These rules are based on past experience and are nonnegotiable.

1. email: You must put your *full name* on all email correspondence. Emails sent without a name will not be answered.
2. You may not reschedule an exam for any reason—except for a documented medical emergency.
3. In order for you to receive an excused absence, you **must** notify me or the Teaching Assistant **prior** to class and it **must** concern a documented medical emergency or university sanctioned function; otherwise, all absences and tardies will be considered unexcused.
5. All grades are final (unless there is a mistake when determining a grade—this does happen).
The time to be concerned with a grade is during the semester, not after. When challenging a grade, it is the responsibility of the student to produce the requisite materials. There is no extra credit given in this class.

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Dallas that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action to the fullest extent of the policy, which can range from automatically failing an exam to dismissal from the University. See the University catalog for a detailed explanation.

You should allow yourself ample time to complete the reading prior to class. You should expect each week's reading to take anywhere from six to twelve hours (the academic rule of thumb for weekly reading is to assign approximately 3 hours of reading for each class hour.)

COURSE READING SCHEDULE:

Theory, constitutional foundations and dual federalism:

Jan 7—first day of class
Jan 9--U.S. Constitution, Articles 1-7; Federalist #10 & #51 (basic American constitutional principles)
Jan 14--Drake, Introduction xiii-xxv; O'Toole, Overview (pp. 1-36,) chapters 2, 3, 4
Jan 16--Drake, part I pp. 1-11, documents 1, 2, 9, 12, 18
Jan 21—MLK Day, no class
Jan 23 --Drake, pt II pp. 67-73, docs. 21, 22; Bill of Rights, 11th Amendment, 14th Amendment
Jan 28--Drake, docs. 23, 24, 25, 27; Walker ch 3 pp. 65-73
Jan 30--Drake, docs. 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41; exam #1 review
Feb 4—**EXAM #1**

Cooperative federalism, interstate relations:

Feb 6--Drake, pt. IV pp. 139-147, docs. 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 50
Feb 11--Walker, ch. 3 pp. 73-88; Walker, ch 4
Feb 13--Drake, docs. 46, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55
Feb 18--Walker ch 7
Feb 20—Zimmerman, ch. 1; ch. 3; pp 59-64, 68-80
Feb 25—Zimmerman, ch. 5-7
Feb 27—Zimmerman, ch 8-10
Mar 3—O'Toole, ch 10; exam #2 review
Mar 5—**EXAM #2**
Mar 10, 12—**SPRING BREAK**

Contemporary federalism, public policy and federalism:

Mar 17--Drake, pt V pp. 173-181; O'Toole, ch. 11
Mar 19—Walker, ch 6; O'Toole, chs. 9 & 13
Mar 24--Walker, ch 10
Mar 26—O'Toole, chs. 14, 15, 16, 17
Mar 31—lecture
Apr 2—NO CLASS
Apr 7—O'Toole, chs. 18, 19, 20
Apr 9—O'Toole, chs. 21, 22, 23
Apr 14—Walker, ch 9
Apr 16—O'Toole, 25, 26, 27
Apr 21—Walker, ch 11
Apr 23—lecture, exam #3 review
Apr 28—**EXAM #3**

ABOVE WAS CHANGED TO BELOW

Mar 17--Drake, pt V pp. 173-181; O'Toole, ch. 11--DELETED
Mar 19—Walker, ch 6; O'Toole, chs. 9 & 13—Walker ch 6 DELETED
Mar 24--Walker, ch 5
Mar 26—O'Toole, chs. 9, 11, 13
Mar 31—O'Toole, chs 14, 15, 16, 17
Apr 2—lecture
Apr 7—O'Toole, chs. 18, 19, 20
Apr 9—O'Toole, chs. 21, 22, 23
Apr 14—Walker, ch 9
Apr 16—O'Toole, 25, 26, 27
Apr 21—Walker, ch 11
Apr 23—lecture, exam #3 review
Apr 28—**EXAM #3**

Aug 21—first day of class
Aug 24
Aug 26
Aug 28
Aug 31
Sept 2
Sept 4
Sept 7—Labor Day, no class
Sept 9
Sept 11
Sept 14
Sept 16
Sept 18
Sept 21
Sept 23
Sept 25

Sept 28
Sept 30
Oct 2
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Oct 12
Oct 14
Oct 16
Oct 19
Oct 21
Oct 23
Oct 26
Oct 28
Oct 30
Nov 2
Nov 4
Nov 6
Nov 9
Nov 11
Nov 13
Nov 16
Nov 18
Nov 20
Nov 23
Nov 25—reading day, no class
Nov 27—Thanksgiving Holiday, no class
Nov 30
Dec 2
Dec 4
Dec 7—exam #4