

**PSCI 3323
American Federalism
Spring 2013
Syllabus**

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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. 0872893073

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

Links:

The Articles of Confederation may be found at: <http://www.usconstitution.net/articles.html>

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

The *Federalist 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)

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.)

Spring reading schedule and course outline:

Theoretical, constitutional, and historical foundations of American federalism:

- Jan 14— first day of class
- Jan 16— *Federalist* #10 & #51 (basic American constitutional principles)
- Jan 18— *Zimmerman*, ch 1; *Drake*, Introduction (introduction to American federalism)
- Jan 21—MLK Day no class
- Jan 23— *Drake*, part I pp 1-11, documents 1, 2, 4, 6 (pre-revolutionary America)
- Jan 25— *Drake*, docs 9, 10 (revolutionary America)
- Jan 28— Articles of Confederation; *Zimmerman*, pp 13-18; *Drake*, docs 12, 18 (Articles of Confederation)
- Jan 30— *Zimmerman*, pp 18-28; *Drake*, docs 13-17; (Constitutional Convention)
- Feb 1— *Zimmerman*, ch 3 (Constitution)
- Feb 4— lecture (Constitution)
- Feb 6— *Federalist Papers* #39, 46 (federalism explained by advocates)
- Feb 8— *Drake*, pp. 67-73, docs. 21, 22 (Anti-federalist objections to proposed constitution)
- Feb 11— *Democracy in America*, Volume 1, part 1, ch 5 (federalism in Jacksonian America)
- Feb 13— *Drake*, docs 23, 24, pp 95-100, docs, 28, 29, 30 (nullification doctrine)
- Feb 18— *Drake*, docs 34-38, 40 (succession crisis)
- Feb 20—exam #1 review
- Feb 22— **EXAM #1**

Contemporary understanding and the politics of federalism:

- Feb 25— *O'Toole*, chs 3,4,5 (introduction to contemporary federalism)
- Feb 27— *O'Toole*, chs 6, 7 (introduction to contemporary federalism cont.)
- Mar 1— *Zimmerman*, ch 8 (state-local relations)
- Mar 4— *Zimmerman*, ch 7 (interstate relations)
- Mar 6— *O'Toole*, ch 10 (interstate relations)

Mar 8—*reading day*
Mar 11—15—Spring Break
Mar 18—*Zimmerman*, ch 5; Article III, U.S. Constitution (judicial federalism)
Mar 20— lecture (judicial federalism)
Mar 22— lecture (judicial federalism)—commerce clause
Mar 25— *O'Toole*, chs 8, 9, 13 (politics of federalism)
Mar 27— *Zimmerman*, ch 4 (congressional preemption)
Mar 29— *O'Toole*, chs 22, 23 (mandates)
Apr 1— review exam #2
Apr 3— **EXAM #2**

Fiscal and contemporary federalism:

Apr 5— *Zimmerman*, ch 6 (fiscal federalism)
Apr 8— *O'Toole*, chs 14, 16 (fiscal federalism)
Apr 10— *O'Toole*, chs 17, 18 (fiscal federalism)
Apr 11— *O'Toole*, chs 19, 20 (fiscal federalism)
Apr 15— *Drake*, docs 55, 57, 61 (expansion of federal power—FDR-LBJ)
Apr 17— *Drake*, docs 64, 65 (Great Society)
Apr 19— *O'Toole*, ch11 (devolution)
Apr 22— *Drake*, docs 68-71 (devolution)
Apr 24— *O'Toole*, chs 25, 26 (case studies)
Apr 26— *O'Toole*, chs 12, 27 (federalism and globalization)
Apr 29— *Zimmerman*, ch 9 (current state of affairs)
May 1 —exam #3 review
May 3— **EXAM #3**