

**PSCI 3323  
American Federalism  
Fall 2015  
Syllabus**

Instructor: Dr. Brian Bearry  
Office: GR 3.230 ext. 4966  
Office hrs: MWF 9-9:50 am  
email: [brian.bearry@utdallas.edu](mailto:brian.bearry@utdallas.edu)

***Required texts:***

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

Laurence O'Toole, ed. *American Intergovernmental Relations*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. CQ Press. 9781452226293

David Brian Robertson. *Federalism and the Making of America*. Routledge. 978041879194

***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/>

Brutus #11 may be found at: <http://www.constitution.org/afp/brutus11.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 and/or four absences will result in the loss of 5% of your participation grade; failure of six quizzes and/or six absences will result in the loss of your full participation grade. Those with nine or more absences or quiz failures will lose another 5% on the final course grade. 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.)

<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i></p> <p><i>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</i></p>
---	---

***Fall reading schedule and course outline:***

***Theoretical, constitutional, and historical foundations of American federalism:***

Aug 25—course introduction; *Federalist Papers* #10 & #51  
Aug 27—Robertson, ch 1; Drake, Introduction (introduction to American federalism)  
Sept 1—*Drake*, part I pp 1-11, documents 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10 (prerevolutionary and revolutionary America)  
Sept 3—Articles of Confederation; *Drake*, docs 12, 18 (Articles of Confederation; state governments)  
Sept 8—*Robertson*, ch2; *Drake*, docs 13-17; Constitution (Constitutional Convention & Constitution)  
Sept 10—*Federalist Papers* #39, #46; *Drake*, pp. 67-73, docs. 21, 22 (Federalists & Anti-Federalists)  
Sept 15—*Drake*, docs 23, 24, pp 95-100, docs, 28-30 34-38, 40 (nullification doctrine & secession crisis)  
Sept 17—lecture and exam #1 review  
Sept 22—***exam #1***

***Development and the politics of federalism:***

Sept 24—*Robertson*, ch 3; *O'Toole*, chs 1,3, 4 (introduction to contemporary federalism)  
Sept 29—*Robertson*, ch 4 (the politics of race and federalism)  
Oct 1—*Robertson*, ch 5 (federalism, capitalism and economic growth)  
Oct 6—*Robertson*, ch 6 (progressive reform and federalism)  
Oct 8—*Robertson*, ch 7; *Drake*, docs 55, 57, 61 (expansion of federal power—FDR & the New Deal)  
Oct 13—download pdf; *Federalist* #80; *Brutus* #11 (judicial federalism)  
Oct 15—download pdf (commerce clause and judicial federalism)  
Oct 20—*O'Toole*, chs 8-12 (politics of federalism)  
Oct 22—download pdf; *O'Toole*, ch 21, 22 (preemption & mandates)  
Oct 27—lecture, exam #2 review  
Oct 29—***exam #2***

***Fiscal and contemporary federalism:***

Nov 3—*Robertson*, ch 7; *Drake*, docs 55, 57, 61 (expansion of federal power—FDR & the New Deal)  
Nov 5—*Robertson*, ch 8; *Drake*, docs 61, 64, 65 (liberal activism, Great Society and federalism)  
Nov 10—*O'Toole*, chs 14, 15, 16, 17 (grants-in-aid; fiscal federalism)  
Nov 12—*O'Toole*, chs 18, 19, 20 (grants-in-aid; fiscal federalism)  
Nov 17—*Robertson*, ch 9 (conservative politics and federalism)  
Nov 19—*O'Toole*, chs 26, 27, 28 (case studies)  
Nov 23-28—Fall Break, Thanksgiving; no class  
Dec 1—*Robertson* ch 10; *O'Toole*, ch 30 (federalism in 2015)  
Dec 3—lecture, exam #3 review  
Dec 8—***exam #3***