This course is an advanced graduate seminar designed to acquaint students with the scholarly literature on American state politics. During the semester students will pursue their own research projects, which they will present to the seminar during the last two weeks of the semester. The research paper may be on any aspect of American state politics.

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on the research paper and on participation in seminar. Plus and minus grades will be used.

Academic Integrity: Breaches of academic integrity rules are regarded as serious matters. Any student caught cheating on a research paper will receive a score of zero for that assignment.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities: If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

Intellectual Pluralism: The University welcomes intellectual diversity. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Department Chair or Division leader or Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (http://osrr.missouri.edu/). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

Assigned Text:
Gray, Hanson, and Kousser. *Politics in the American States* (10th ed.)

Topics and Reading Assignments:

January 18: Why Study State Politics?

January 25: State Political Cultures
Gray, Hanson, and Kousser (GHK), chapters 1 and 2

February 1: Public Opinion and State Politics
GHK, chapter 14

February 8: Parties and Interest Groups in the States
GHK, chapters 3 and 4

February 15: Governors and Elections
GHK, chapter 7


February 22: Governors, the Executive Branch, and Policymaking

Bernick. 2016. “Studying Governors Over Five Decades: What We Know and Where We Need to Go” *State and Local Government Review* 48:132-46


March 1: State Legislatures and Professionalization


March 8: State Legislative Elections

GHK, chapter 6


March 15: State Legislative Organization, Procedure, and Outcomes

March 22: Direct Democracy
GHK, chapter 5

April 5: State Courts
GHK, chapter 8


April 12: State Taxation and Spending

G&J, chapters 10, 16


April 19: State Policies

G&J, chapters 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16


April 26 and May 3: Student Research Presentations

May 5: RESEARCH PAPERS DUE