

**GVPT 260: State and Local Government  
Spring, 2017**

M, W: 2:00-2:50, TYD 2106  
F: 9:00-9:50, JMZ 3120 (Section 101),  
or 10:00-10:50 TWS 1313 (Section 102),  
or 1:00-1:50 MTH 0405 (Section 103)

**Instructor**

Dr. Richard N. Engstrom  
Email: [rengstro@umd.edu](mailto:rengstro@umd.edu)  
Office: Institute for Governmental Service and Research, 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 208  
Phone: 301-405-3997

Office Hours: Mondays, 12 – 1:30 (and by appointment)

**Teaching Assistant**

Konrad Mugglestone  
Email: [kmuggles@umd.edu](mailto:kmuggles@umd.edu)  
Office: Tydings 5139  
Phone: 803-528-4203

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to subnational government in the U.S. context, with some attention paid to state and local government in Maryland. The fact that the U.S. has 50 state governments, 3144 counties and county-equivalents, and many thousands of local governments gives students of politics the opportunity to observe a great deal of variation when it comes to governing institutions, representational relationships, taxing and spending decisions, and other elements of government and politics. In this class we will learn about those variations and relate them to broader theories of politics to learn more about politics and government generally. At the end of the course you will have a better idea of how state and local governments operate, and the different ways in which they can operate. You will also be able to develop informed opinions about how subnational governments should be structured, and construct strategies to more effectively engage state and local governments if you need assistance or wish to advocate for a policy position.

Lecture classes will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will involve a presentation of the topic related to the week's assigned reading in the Donovan text. Discussion sections will

meet on Fridays, and will be structured like a seminar in which a discussion is held on the week's readings from the *Annual Editions* Reader. Your participation in this seminar is important both for both the quality of the discussion (i.e. how much you will learn during the seminar) and to your grade in this class.

## Grades

This class will assess you based on the following activities:

1. Performance on three tests (25% each, for a total of 75%)
2. Participation grade in seminars (15%)
3. Performance on seminar presentation (10%)

Tests will be short-essay tests, requiring 2-3 paragraphs per answer. Questions will be drawn from readings, lecture classes, and seminar discussions. Participation in seminars will be assessed by the RA and will involve an evaluation of the frequency and quality of student participation in discussions. Each student will be assigned one article with which to lead a discussion in their assigned seminar section, and the RA will assess the student's preparation, presentation and the extent to which the student generates and sustains a useful discussion.

Final grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A+	98-100%
A	92-97%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%
D+	68-69%
D	62-67%
D-	60-61%
F	59% or lower

## Textbooks

There are three required textbooks in this course:

Donovan, Todd, Daniel A. Smith, Tracy Osborn, and Christopher Z. Mooney. 2014. *State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage Learning.

Stinebrickner, Bruce. 2014. *Annual Editions: State and Local Government, 16<sup>th</sup> edition*. McGraw Hill.

Tervalo, Victor K. 2001. *Home Rule Options in Maryland, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Institute for Governmental Service.

### Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Readings
Week 1	1/25-27	Donovan, Ch 1: Introduction to State and Local Politics Discussion Section: Stinebrickner, Preface, 1.3
Week 2	1/30-2/4	Donovan, Ch 2: Federalism DS: Stinebrickner, 1.1, 1.2, 2.3
Week 3	2/6-10	Donovan, Ch 3: Participation, Elections and Representation DS: Stinebrickner, 3.1, 3.2, 1.5
Week 4	2/13-17	Donovan, Ch 4: State and Local Direct Democracy DS: Stinebrickner, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8
Week 5	2/20-24	REVIEW SESSION, 2/20 <b>TEST 1, 2/22</b> DS: Stinebrickner, 2.1, 2.2
Week 6	2/27-3/3	Donovan, Chs 5&6: Political Parties & Interest Groups DS: Stinebrickner, 3.5, 4.7, 4.8
Week 7	3/6-10	Donovan, Ch 7: State Legislatures DS: Stinebrickner, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4
Week 8	3/13-17	Donovan, Ch 8: Governors and the State Bureaucracy DS: Stinebrickner, 4.9, 2.4
Week 9	3/20-24	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>
Week 10	3/27-31	Donovan, Ch 9: State Courts and the Criminal Justice System DS: Stinebrickner, 3.3, 4.13, 3.10
Week 11	4/3-7	REVIEW SESSION, 4/3 <b>TEST 2, 4/5</b> DS: Stinebrickner, 3.9, 3.11
Week 12	4/10-14	Donovan, Ch 11: Local Governments DS: Stinebrickner, 1.5, 4.5, 4.11
Week 13	4/17-21	Tervalo, Chs 1-9 Local Government in Maryland DS: Stinebrickner, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
Week 14	4/24-28	Donovan, Ch13: Morality Policy DS: Stinebrickner, 4.14, 7.3
Week 15	5/1-5	Donovan, Ch 14: Social Welfare and Health Care Policy DS: TBD (Readings will be Posted on ELMS)
Week 16	5/8-10	Donovan, Ch 15: Education Policy REVIEW SESSION 5/10 DS: Stinebrickner, 7.1, 7.2, 4.6 (Potential announcement on ELMS)
FINALS WEEK	5/17 1:30pm	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

## **Make-up Assignments**

Make-up Exams and Assignments will be given as a result of a documented, unexpected emergency or as the result of a university-authorized commitment.

## **Contacting the Instructor and TA**

Students with requests or questions about the class should use email to contact the instructor and/or TA. I am happy to meet with students to discuss issues related to DSS accommodations, class content, or other issues related to state and local government.

## **Additional Course Information**

The syllabus is tentative, and mid-semester changes to the class may be necessary. Changes are at the discretion of the instructor, and will be announced in class. The ELMS system will be used to provide students with a syllabus, announcements and grades. Students are required to ensure that their emails are registered with ELMS so that they receive communications related to the class.

Additional information about course-related policies at the University of Maryland, including academic integrity, sexual misconduct, and discrimination, can be found on the Course Related Policies page, hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Studies:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>