

Syllabus

Pl Sc 297 (Fall 2008)

Professor Adam Brown

Email: plsc297@adambrown.info

Course website: <http://adambrown.info/p/courses/2008/fall/297>

Office location: 772 SWKT

Office hours: Mon 3:15-5:00, or by appointment

When do we attend?

If you **have not** previously taken PlSc 311, *State and Local Politics*, you must enroll for 2.0 credit hours. You will attend for the entire second block.

If you **have** previously taken PlSc 311, you need to enroll for only 1.0 credit hours. You are not required to attend until Thursday, November 13, but you are welcome to if you wish.

Everybody attends from Thursday, November 13 to the end of the semester.

What's this course about?

More than in most states, Utah's legislators rely heavily on their interns for assistance and advice—for reasons that we'll discuss. My task is to prepare you as well as possible for that role. To do so, we will cover two basic themes.

- First, what do we know about state politics generally? State legislatures are not entirely like Congress, and governors are not entirely like the president. (This is what we'll do for the first half of the course. Those who have taken 311 need not attend.)
- Second, what do we know about Utah politics in particular? We will cover Utah's peculiar legislative institutions, as well as current public policy debates that might come up during the upcoming legislative session. (Everybody attends these.)

Along the way, I hope you will make an effort to acquaint yourselves with one another, so that you will feel comfortable consulting with one another during your internships.

Grades and assignments

I use a variety of assessment methods to keep final grades as fair as possible. This includes closed-form questions (e.g. multiple choice, true/false), short answer questions, and essays. Given the unique purposes of this course, I place a much heavier emphasis than usual on presentations and group work.

Half course Full course

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 15 | 15 | Attendance and participation in class |
| 0 | 100 | Midterm exam (covers first half of course) |

| | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| 50 | 50 | Group presentation about a Utah policy issue (includes two papers) |
| 35 | 35 | Final exam |
| 100 | 200 | Total points possible |

Attendance and participation: We will occasionally have in-class assignments or quizzes, which will determine most of your participation grade. I will also make small adjustments to reflect your participation in discussions.

Late papers: Any paper turned in on the due date but after the appointed time gets a 5% penalty. One weekday late is a 10% penalty; two weekdays late is a 25% penalty; three weekdays late is unacceptable. Papers must be turned in hard copy, not by email.

Missed exams: No makeups unless you (1) arrange it in advance for a valid reason or (2) have a genuine emergency and contact me as soon as possible to work things out.

Final exam: The exam will be at **5:45pm on Wednesday, December 17**. Be there. Do not ask to take it at another time; I am not authorized to accommodate such requests.

What is the workload?

Because this is only a 2 credit hour class, you are probably expecting to do less work than for a typical 3 credit hour class. That is correct. But bear in mind that you are doing that work in only half the semester. Since we're doing 2 credit hours worth of work at twice the speed, it will feel like 4 credit hours worth of work. (For those of you taking only 1 credit hour, you are doing 1 credit hour in a quarter of a semester—so it will still feel like 4 credit hours worth of work.)

Punchline: Do not be surprised if it feels like you've got more work coming at you than you had expected.

Other course policies

Many of my course policies are the same for every course. To save space, I don't repeat them here. For answers to general questions like the following, read my policies at this URL: <http://adambrown.info/p/courses/policies>

- How many hours per week should I schedule for this class?
- What do your tests and exams look like (and why)?
- How do I request a regrade for a particular assignment?

What books do we need to buy?

Most readings come from free (to you) online resources like JSTOR. You might need to be on campus to access some URLs, though. Books:

- **Required:** *Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide*.
 - You can buy it in the bookstore (\$10 or so) or here: <http://tinyurl.com/5t6f32>
- **Required:** Rosenthal, Alan. 2004. *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*.
 - [Amazon: \\$31 new, \\$18 used](#).
- **Required for 2 credit students, optional for 1 credit students:** Donovan, Mooney, and Smith. 2009. *State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform*.
 - [Amazon: \\$82 new, cheaper used](#). At ichapters.com only \$51 as an e-book—you can also purchase individual chapters for about \$6 each, which might be a good option since we won't be

going through the entire book.

- **Required:** Subscribe to the [Utah Policy Daily](#), a daily email newsletter. Also, read the newspaper every day (Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News, or both).
- **Required:** Follow blog posts at the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) website.

Reading schedule

Dates are approximate. Changes will be announced in class. Under each date you will find the following headings:

- Lecture title, usually given as one or more questions. You should be able to answer these questions by the end of the lecture.
- Terms: Keywords to help you identify key points. Also, look for keywords in your textbook and other readings.
- Readings: Required readings. Read them before the indicated lecture. Some URLs will work only from on campus.
- Resources: You are not required to read these, but I might draw on them during lecture. (These won't be visible until after the lecture.)

Although my lectures will diverge considerably from the readings—more so for some topics than for others—be advised that anything from lecture or the readings is fair game for the exams.

Unit 1: Politics in the States

Wed, Oct 22nd, 2008. Overview of state politics. Why study state politics? What questions can we answer? How do institutions and political culture vary from state to state?

- Terms: input; machine; policy; political culture; subculture; cleavage; traditionalist; moralist; individualist
- Readings:
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 1) [36 pages]
 - Kurtz (2008), "[No Modern Experiments with a Parliamentary System in the States](#)" [2 pages]
 - Kimball (1992), "Political Culture." In [Encyclopedia of Mormonism](#), pp. 1106-7 (Note: This is a 13 page download, but only read the 2 pages on political culture.) [2 pages]
 - skim Brown (1995), "[Party Cleavages and Welfare Effort in the American States](#)" [9 pages]
- If you have taken PISc 311, you don't have to attend until November 13th.

Thu, Oct 23rd, 2008. State legislative elections. Are they different from Congressional elections? Who runs for legislature? Does redistricting/gerrymandering matter?

- Terms: incumbency advantage; challenger quality; redistricting; gerrymander; one man, one vote; malapportionment; reapportionment
- Readings:
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 7, especially pp. 192-218) [17 pages]
 - Donovan and Bowler (2004), [Reforming the Republic, ch 3](#) [18 pages]
 - Moncrief et al (2001), [Who runs for the legislature?, ch 1](#) [15 pages]
 - Ehrenhalt (2007), "[Party lines](#)" [4 pages]
 - Washington Post editorial (2003), "[The Soviet Republic of Texas](#)" [1 page]
 - Play the game at <http://redistrictinggame.org/>. No, really. We're going to discuss it. At a minimum, try the "basic" version of missions 1, 2, 3, and 4. Mission 5 is optional.
- Resources: [Show resources](#)

Wed, Oct 29th, 2008. The legislative process. How does a bill *really* become law? (Generally, and also in Utah.) Who runs the legislature—the majority, or the majority of the majority?

- Terms: committees; subcommittees; rules of procedure; single subject rule; pivotal politics; conditional party government; legislative cartel; committees; subcommittees; House Rules Committee; agenda control; median voter theorem
- Readings:
 - Rosenthal (2001), "[The legislature as sausage factory: It's about time we examine this metaphor.](#)" [4 pages]
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 7, especially pp. 218-231) [13 pages]
 - skim Kim (2005), "[Partisan deadlocks and agenda-setting in American state legislatures](#)" [30 pages]
- Resources: [Show resources](#)

Thu, Oct 30th, 2008. Professionalism. California vs Utah. Why was the California legislature professionalized? Is professionalism a good thing?

- Terms: citizen legislature; professional legislature; Artie Samish; Jesse Unruh; Phillip Burton; shrimp hour; select and elect; the secret boss of California; Big Daddy; professionalism; the three s's (salaries, staff, session length); transformative; responsive; term limits
- Readings:
 - Jacobs (1995), "[Firecrackers and farm workers](#)" (ch 4 in *A rage for justice*)
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 7, especially pp. 231-241) [10 pages]
 - Kousser (2008), "[Term Limits and State Legislatures](#)," in *Democracy in the States: Experiments in Election Reform*, edited by Tolbert, Donovan, and Cain.
 - Kolman (2007), "[Brain drain: Many legislative staffers are due to retire soon—taking with them a ton of experience](#)" [3 pages]
 - *The Economist* (2006), "[Term limits and democracy: Out with the old](#)" [2 pages]
- Resources: [Show resources](#)

Wed, Nov 5th, 2008. Direct democracy. Did the Progressive movement become Madison's worst nightmare? Can voters handle direct democracy? How does direct democracy change public policy?

- Terms: Hiram Johnson; initiative; referendum; recall; 2003 California recall; progressivism; tyranny of the majority; gun behind the door; rolloff; voter fatigue; confusion
- Readings:
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 4) [34 pages]
 - Bowler and Cain (2004), "[Recalling the Recall: Reflections on California's Recent Political Adventure](#)" [3 pages]
 - Phillips (2008), "[Does the Citizen Initiative Weaken Party Government in the U.S. States?](#)" [18 pages]
 - skim Gerber (1996), "[Legislative response to the threat of popular initiatives](#)" (look for the point; don't get too caught up in the complicated game theory proofs) [27 pages]
- Resources: [Show resources](#)

Thu, Nov 6th, 2008. Governors. Who runs for governor? How do voters evaluate governors? What can governors do? Which governors are most powerful? Who is more powerful—the governor or the legislature? Types of power and the problem of measurement

- Terms: functional responsibility; blame; formal powers; informal powers; item veto; political capital; veto bargaining; divided government; budget process; continuing resolution; governmental shutdown; reversion point
- Readings:
 - Donovan, Mooney, and Smith (ch 8) [25 pages]
 - Brown (2008), "[Partisanship, Blame, and Divided Federalism: How Voters Assess Gubernatorial Responsibility for the State Economy](#)" [30 pages]
 - skim Abney and Lauth (1997), "[The item veto and fiscal responsibility](#)" [10 pages]
 - skim Kousser and Phillips (2008), "[Reevaluating the Item Veto](#)"
- Resources: [Show resources](#)

Wed, Nov 12th, 2008. MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS for students who are enrolled for 2 credit hours.

Unit 2: Internship Preparation

Thu, Nov 13th, 2008. EVERYONE ATTENDS. Internship overview. The Utah context.

- Readings:
 - Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch 1, 2, 3, and 23 [47 pages]
 - Info for legislative interns:
<http://www.le.utah.gov/lrgc/internprogram.htm>
- Everybody attends from now on regardless of whether you have previously taken 311. It is critical that you attend today, as you will be divided into groups for your final project today.

Wed, Nov 19th, 2008. Organizing and staffing the Utah legislature. Who does what in the legislature? What are the roles of interns, staff, and citizens? Parliamentary procedures.

- Readings:
 - Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch 4 and 6 [40 pages]
 - skim [the Utah Legislature's rules](#) [many, many pages—ugh]
- DUE: Two page summary of assigned policy area.

Thu, Nov 20th, 2008. Legislative life: Representing competing interests.

- Readings: Rosenthal (2004), skim ch 1, read ch 2-3 [skim 15 pages, read 40 pages]

Wed, Dec 3rd, 2008. Legislative life: Lawmaking.

- Readings: Rosenthal (2004), ch 4-7 (skim ch 4 and 6, read ch 5 and 7) [skim 48 pages, read 50 pages]

Thu, Dec 4th, 2008. The legislature vs the governor. Who has the upper hand?

- Readings:
 - Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch 5 (especially pp. 63-74) [11 pages]
 - Rosenthal (2004), ch 8-9 [40 pages]

Wed, Dec 10th, 2008. Part 1: Legislative leadership. Part 2: Fiscal policy.

- Readings:
 - Rosenthal (2004), ch 10-11 [38 pages]
 - review Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch pp 107-109
 - Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch 8 [30 pages]

Thu, Dec 11th, 2008. Group presentations.

- Readings: skim Utah State Government: A Citizen's Guide (2005), ch 9-20

Final exam: The final exam will be at **5:45pm on Wednesday, December 17**. Be there.

I will make every effort to be available to you in my office all morning on Monday, December 15, in case you have any last-minute questions.

Notices

The following are notices from the political science department.

Preventing Sexual Harassment. By law, Brigham Young University is obligated to protect its students from gender discrimination, including unlawful sexual harassment, in all programs and activities sponsored by the university. As you embark on your internship, please be aware of what constitutes sexual harassment and what you should do if you encounter it during your internship opportunity.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to the conduct is made a term or condition of an individual's employment, or (2) submission to or rejection of the conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or (3) the conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Behaviors that contribute to a hostile environment include, but are not limited to

- Discussing sexual activities
- Telling off-color jokes
- Unnecessary touching
- Commenting on physical attributes
- Displaying sexually suggestive pictures
- Using crude language or demeaning or inappropriate terms
- Using indecent gestures
- Engaging in hostile physical conduct

If you experience harassment while participating in a BYU-sponsored internship, report the behavior to your internship coordinator (that's me). You may also contact the university's Equal Opportunity Manager at (801) 422-5895 or call the 24-hour hotline 1 (888) 238-1062.

Plagiarism: While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty at the Honor Code site can be found by moving your mouse over "Honor Code" in the second grey bar and then move down then right and click on "Other Clarifications", then move your mouse down and click on "Academic Honesty."

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

Sexual Discrimination: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Disabilities: Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified

persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (2170 WSC, 422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB

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