Federalism, the division of power between the national and state governments, is a fundamental feature of the political structure in the United States, but it is little studied and less understood by political scientists and laypeople. Invented by the founders of the U.S., this feature has spread to governments around the world, from India, to Australia, to Germany, to Mexico. Why is federalism so attractive as a system of government? Is there something normatively "good" about federalism, or does it just arise from political necessity? Does the meaning of the term change over time as the United States and its constitution adapt to new challenges? Can we predict the effects of federalism on the economic and political environment?

Like federalism itself, state and local governments are often relegated to the fringes of the study of American politics. This is strange, given the number and variety of state and local government systems in this country. Many interesting questions, therefore, remain to be fully addressed: How do the roles of state and local governments differ from those of the national government? What public policies should we expect state and local governments to implement and how? What can the study of state and local governments teach us about U.S. politics in general?

In this course, we will attempt to consider, if not answer, all of the above questions. This will require a significant amount of dedication and effort on all of our parts. Just as you should expect thorough preparation from me, I expect the same of all of you. Therefore, it is important that everyone complete the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. I anticipate lecturing little this term and listening a lot.

Evaluation this term will be as follows. 1) Regular participation - 20% of semester grade. 2) Four 2-3 page response papers based on the readings - 30% of semester grade. 3) Discussion leadership for policy roundtables - 20% of grade. 4) Final paper - 30% of semester grade.

Details will follow on policy roundtables and final papers. Response papers should be based on a reading or readings assigned for the day students hand them in (though they may incorporate insights from other readings) you are not expected to do outside research for these short papers! You are free to choose what to write about, though papers should make an argument (more than one argument is probably too much for a short paper). You have some degree of choice over when to write these papers, but you must write your first by the end of week two (DATE), your second by the end of week four, your third by the end of week six, and your fourth by the end of week eight. I will grant extensions only in cases of serious emergencies beyond a student's control.

Books available at the Carleton College Bookstore:

The following book is not available at the bookstore. I will be giving you each a copy:


Other materials are either Handouts or are available on reserve (RR) at Gould Library.

1 🆕 Monday, September 10 🆕 **Introduction**

**The Roots of American Federalism**

2 🆕 Wednesday, September 12

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1660), Chapter 29: "Of Those Things that Weaken or Tend to the Dissolution of a Commonwealth" *(Handout)*
- *Articles of Confederation* *(Handout)*
- *Constitution of the U.S.* *(Handout)*

3 🆕 Friday, September 14

- *Federalist Papers* 9, 10, 37, 46 *(RR)*
- *Anti-Federalist Papers:* *(Handouts)*
  - Agrippa IV (Dec. 1787)
  - Melancton Smith, speech, 27 June 1788

**History of American Federalism I**

4 🆕 Monday, September 17

- *Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions* (1799) *(Handout)*
- John C. Calhoun, "The Fort Hill Address" (1831) *(Handout)*
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) *(Handout)*

5 🆕 Wednesday, September 19

- *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* (excerpt) *(RR)*
- "Southern Manifesto" (1956) *(Handout)*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. et al., "Letter to the President of the United States" (1958) *Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers, V. 4* (1992) *(RR)*

6 🆕 Friday, September 21

- David Walker, "Variations on Dual Federalism, 1789-1930" Ch. 3 in *The Rebirth of Federalism* *(RR)*

**History of American Federalism II**

7 🆕 Monday, September 24


8 🆕 Wednesday, September 26

• Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama v. Garrett (2001) (Handout)

States and Cities ⚡ Roles

9 ⚡ Friday, September 28

• William Riker, "Federalism" OToole, pp. 89-96.

10 ⚡ Monday, October 1

• Paul Peterson, The Price of Federalism, (1995) Ch. 2: "Functional and Legislative Theories of Federalism" (RR)
• Weber and Brace, Ch 2

11 ⚡ Wednesday, October 3

• Morris Fiorina, "Divided Government in the American States: A Byproduct of Legislative Professionalism?" American Political Science Review, 88:2 (June, 1994). (RR)
• Weber and Brace, Ch 4.

12 ⚡ Friday, October 5


States and Cities ⚡ Politics

13 ⚡ Monday, October 8

• Elazar, Gray, and Spano, Ch 1

14 ⚡ Wednesday, October 10

• Weber and Brace, Ch 9, Ch. 10

15 ⚡ Friday, October 12

• Elazar, Gray and Spano, Chapter 6
• Elazar, Gray and Spano, Chapter 5

Monday, October 15 (MID-TERM BREAK)

16 ⚡ Wednesday, October 17

• Jacob Lentz, Electing Jesse Ventura: A Third Party Success Story, (Forthcoming 2001), Ch. 1-2

17 ⚡ Friday, October 19

• Lentz, Ch. 3

19 ⚡ Monday, October 22

• Lentz, Ch 4, Conclusion
States and Cities Policies

20 Wednesday, October 24

- Posner, "The Politics of Unfunded Mandates," OToole pp. 296-308
- Hosansky, "The Other War Over Mandates," OToole pp. 309-313

21 Friday, October 26

- Weber and Brace, Ch 12

22 Monday, October 29

- Weber and Brace, Ch 13

POLICY ROUNDTABLES

-- Welfare

23 Wednesday, October 31

24 Friday, November 2

-- Initiatives

25 Monday, November 5

26 Wednesday, November 7

-- Education

27 Friday, November 9

28 Monday, November 12

Conclusion

29 Wednesday, November 14