

American Federalism & Policy
Political Science 320
West Virginia University
Fall 2011

Lucinda A. Potter, Senior Lecturer

E-mail address: Lucinda.Potter@mail.wvu.edu

301H Woodburn Hall

304-293-3811 extension 5274

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 AM to 11:30 AM
and by appointment
August 22, 2011

Course Objectives:

This web-based course is designed to provide you with a thorough understanding of federalism and its role in the American political system. It defines federalism, examines federalism's philosophical justifications, the Framers' views on federalism as an organizational solution to the dilemma of how to prevent governmental tyranny, the centralization of governmental authority over time, the court's role in shaping the relationships among the national (federal), state, and local governments, and the contemporary debate over what those governmental relationships should be. Homeland security policy is also covered as a case study of what happens when programmatic authority is shifted from the national (federal) government to states and localities.

This course is appropriate for students from all academic disciplines that are interested in learning about American federalism. As a 300 level course, students are expected to have some, but not extensive, knowledge of American politics, the structure and operations of state and local governments, and the institutions of government. Although not a formal requirement, students without any knowledge of American politics and governance structures (e.g., how a bill becomes a law, the definition of a bicameral legislature, the basic functions of the institutions of government, etc.) are advised to take POLS 102 before taking this course.

Course Requirements:

This course is presented in a series of learning units consisting of readings, written assignments, asynchronous online classroom sessions and online discussions. Each topic includes assigned readings from the texts, supplemental readings (when appropriate), discussion topics and a clearly defined list of written assignments that includes due dates. The learning units should be followed sequentially (unit 1 first, unit 2 second, etc.). When appropriate, the topics and assignments also include a list of key concepts, terms, phrases, or theories that must be mastered.

All students are required to actively participate in online discussions. Periodically through the semester (generally weekly), questions based on the readings and relevant materials will be posted to the discussion board. All students will be expected to regularly participate in class by using the discussion tool to post reactions to each question. In addition, students will be expected to explain and defend their discussion postings to their classmates and me.

All students are also required to listen to the bi-weekly WIMBA classroom lectures. Although there is no formal, scheduled class meeting time, students must listen to an archive of each session within the week to earn attendance points for that session. If you have a conflict, advise me **in advance** and request permission to listen to the archives of the WIMBA classroom session at a later date.

All written assignments are due by **12 midnight local (Morgantown, WV) time. The quarterly graded discussions will be assessed at the end of the day on selected Sundays as outlined in the course schedule section of this syllabus.** Note that the WVU eCampus **does not** automatically make time allowances or adjustments if you are in another time zone. Each written assignment must be submitted as an attachment and placed in the appropriate assignment drop box. E-mailed copies of assignments are **NOT** acceptable. **It is your responsibility to be sure that your assignment arrives on time.** I advise you to allow enough time to compose, upload and submit your assignments. When the system is very busy (such as within 10 or 15 minutes of the due date and time), uploading attachments can become slow. Do not wait until the very last minute to put

the assignments in the drop box. **Individual technical problems are not a valid excuse for late assignments or missed discussions.** Once you submit an assignment, check the contents of the assignment drop box (using the “submitted” tab) before the assignment due date/time to be certain your document uploaded, attached, and submitted correctly. If the assignment drop box does not contain what you intended, take back the assignment and resubmit it. You may take back and resubmit assignments as many times as you want up until the due date/time has passed.

Late assignments will be accepted for up to one day following the original assignment deadline for up to ½ credit. For example, if an assignment is due by Sunday at midnight, it will be accepted until Monday at midnight for ½ credit. This is a substantial change from past policy. If you miss the due date/time and one day grace period for any assignment, your grade will be zero (0) for that assignment. This class is designed with many assignments and opportunities to earn points rather than only two or three assignments or exams to allow ample opportunity to recover from a poor grade on an assignment, a late assignment, or a missed assignment. In addition, **students can earn up to 100 bonus points** by completing and submitting a special optional “bonus” assignment late in the semester to make up for a poor grade or a missed assignment. Given the liberal chance to earn bonus points, makeup writing assignments are at the discretion of the instructor and will not normally be allowed except under extreme circumstances. There will be no make-up for missed discussions or missed archived lectures.

Meeting appointments and commitments is part of being a professional – and that’s true for electronic environments, too. Without participating actively and regularly in this class, you cannot perform your job as a student involved in learning. Please note that this online course has an attendance requirement. I expect you to visit the e-classroom a minimum of **three times each week on three separate days** to read the announcements, check the calendar, post comments to the discussion board, interact with me and your fellow students, check e-mail messages, and read the supplemental materials for helpful hints and important explanations about class materials. You may pick the times and days, but you must stay current with the course site. The best way to do this is to log on regularly. The WVU eCampus technology makes it possible for me to track where and how often you visit portions of the course site.

Grading:

Your course grade will be based on the total number of points earned. You can earn up to 100 points for each of the 6 writing assignments. Class participation/discussion in the WVU eCampus classroom is worth up to 200 points (up to 50 points issued quarterly at the end of weeks 4, 8, 12 and 15). WIMBA attendance is worth up to 200 points (up to 25 points per session for each of the 8 sessions).

A	90% - 100%	900-1000 points
B	80% - 89.99%	800-899 points
C	70% - 79.99%	700-799 points
D	60% - 69.99%	600-699 points
F	less than 60%	fewer than 600 points

Writing assignments are worth up to 600 points or 60% of the overall grade

Class discussion/participation is worth up to 200 points or 20% of the overall grade

WIMBA attendance is worth up to 200 points or 20% of the overall grade

NOTE: Copying from the textbook or cutting and pasting sections from web sites or other reference materials or presenting someone else’s ideas as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated and will result in zero (0) points for that assignment. All writing assignments are expected to be your own original work written specifically for this section of this course this semester.

The basis for grading the written unit assignments and the discussion board postings are explained in detail in the "Discussions and Class Participation" and "Written Assignments" documents in the "Other Resources" folder on the Home Page in the e-classroom. Violation of the discussion “ground rules” will not be tolerated and will result in a warning. **Repeated violators will be subject to dismissal** from the virtual classroom discussions and will be issued an “F” for discussion/participation in the class.

Grade appeals should be made in writing with one week of the time the assignment grades, discussion grades, or participation points are posted. Requests for exception to the late policy should be made within one week of the

original due date on an assignment. Late appeals or late requests for exceptions (such as during the last week of class for a grade on the first assignment or a late/missed first assignment) will not be considered.

It is your responsibility to be sure that assignments arrive on time. **Late assignments will be accepted for up to one day following the original assignment deadline for up to ½ credit.** For example, if an assignment is due by Sunday at midnight, it will be accepted until Monday at midnight for ½ up to credit. This is a substantial change from past policy. If you miss the due date/time and one day grace period for any assignment, your grade will be zero (0) for that assignment. Makeup assignments are at the discretion of the instructor and will not normally be allowed except under extreme circumstances. No makeup is permitted for the weekly discussions or the weekly lecture attendance points.

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Any student should notify me by the end of the second week of class regarding Day of Special Concern observances that will affect your ability to participate in class. I will make reasonable accommodations for any assignment or announcement a student misses as a result of observing a Day of Special Concern. In addition, if you know you have a condition or commitment that will prevent you from handing in an assignment on time, let me know in advance and no later than the end of the second week of class. While I will be sympathetic to authentic medical and personal emergencies, delaying submission of any assignments or failing to visit the e-classroom regularly (missing class) will put the student behind and should be avoided at all costs.

Registration and Withdrawing from the Course:

Students may withdraw from courses without a W being placed on their record through the end of the first week of the semester (August 26). They may withdraw with a W from the end of the first week through the end of the 10th week of the semester (October 28). If you want to withdraw from the course, you **MUST** withdraw through the STAR system. Students are not automatically withdrawn if they stop attending, and I cannot administratively withdraw students for nonattendance. Retroactive withdrawals for students who stop attending a course will NOT be granted. **YOU are responsible for making sure that your registration (in all courses) is correct** by the end of the first week of the semester. Neither I nor the Dean's Office can "fix" students' errors should you "forget" to withdraw from a course.

Technical Requirements:

In addition to a reliable internet connection and an Internet browser that is properly configured for the WVU eCampus, you must be able to compose written assignments (using Microsoft Word, Open Office or Corel WordPerfect but NOT Microsoft Works) and submit them using the assignment tool in the WVU eCampus classroom. If you use a Mac, save your assignments in RTF format so that I can read them. When you submit written assignments, **put your name, the name of the class, the assignment number and the semester in the subject line and at the top of the first page in attached documents** (for example, Lucinda Potter PS320 Writing Assignment 1 Fall 2011) to clearly identify your assignment and **check the "submitted" tab** in the assignment drop box to be certain your assignment is in the box. You can generally expect me to pick up assignments within a day or two except for weekends and holidays. If I experience any problem with your assignment (the file is corrupt, etc.), I will let you know by e-mail in the eCampus classroom within a day or two of the assignment due date/time. **Always check the assignment drop box to be certain that any assignment was properly and completely uploaded, attached, and submitted.**

This class will use WIMBA voice tools and the WIMBA live classroom to add sound to some elements of the course. You must be able to access and use the WIMBA voice and live classroom software. To get the most out of the WIMBA experience, a headset (microphone and headphones all in one) or a built-in microphone and a high speed internet connection is recommended. If you do not have a headset, a standing microphone and speakers will suffice. Dial-up service will suffice; phone access to the audio will be made available. At an absolute minimum, you do need speakers and a sound card to listen to the audio portion of the class. More information is available on the WIMBA "getting ready" page at http://www.wimba.com/support/assets/free_resources/WC_Getting_Ready_Guide.pdf. If you have never used WIMBA before, please **do not worry!** This software is relatively easy to use, and the company has a team of technical support personnel available to help with technical problems.

Although rare, technical problems can and do come up unexpectedly. Have a backup plan for Internet and e-mail access in case your home or work computer connection goes off line or crashes. **Always** keep a back-up copy of all your assignments and e-mails in a safe place. Though they are rare, major system outages and failures do

happen. I have had students lose everything in the middle of a course. Remember that individual technical problems are **not** an acceptable excuse for missed assignments.

Throughout the semester, I will be placing readings, announcements, notes of clarification, and grades in the WVU eCampus classroom. To access these, enter the electronic classroom regularly (at least three times each week). Detailed instructions are available at <https://ecampus.wvu.edu/>. Be **certain** to do a browser check-up during the first week of class so that you will be able to see and access all the features in the WVU eCampus classroom.

Make it a practice to visit the virtual classroom to check your e-mail and review the announcements regularly. This is where I will send individual comments, clarification, or special instructions. **If you have a technical problem or cannot enter the WVU eCampus classroom, contact the OIT Help Desk** by phone at 304-293-4444 or on line at <http://oit.wvu.edu/support/helpdesk/index.html>. Request and note your "trouble ticket" number which will be used to verify any claims of a system failure. Also report the problem to me.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view some of the course materials. Download it for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/alternate.html>.

Required Texts, Subscriptions and Supplemental Readings:

This class has five required textbooks. The textbooks are available for purchase at the [West Virginia University Book Store](#) on the downtown campus.

Donald F. Kettl. *System under Stress: Homeland Security and American Politics 2nd edition* (CQ Press, 2007). ISBN 978-0-87289-333-7

Lawrence J. O'Toole, Jr., ed. *American Intergovernmental Relations 4th edition* (CQ Press, 2007). ISBN 978-0-87289-307-8

David B. Walker. *The Rebirth of Federalism 2nd edition* (Chatham House Publishers of Seven Bridges Press, LLC, 2000). ISBN 978-1-56643-074-6

Larry N. Gerston. *American Federalism: A Concise Introduction* (M. E. Sharpe, 2007). ISBN 978-0-7656-1672-2

Paul Manna. *Collision Course: Federal Education Policy Meets State and Local Realities* (CQ Press, 2011). ISBN 978-1-60871-649-4

I have required these textbooks during previous semesters, so used copies are available. If you must put off buying all of the textbooks at once, be advised that we will be using the Kettl and Manna texts near the end of the semester.

Relevant supplemental readings for the course will be released throughout the semester in the eCampus classroom as we progress through each unit. Most learning units will include supplemental materials.

I have sometimes been asked if previous editions of the textbooks will contain everything needed for the class. Understand that the newest text often contains additional information not found in previous editions. If you purchase a previous version of the text(s), I cannot promise all of the material covered will be in the older version. It is your responsibility to make certain you have the required texts and subscriptions.

Faculty Presence and Office Hours:

My office is located in Woodburn Hall 301H. My office hours are Tuesday & Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM and by appointment. I am generally available at least once each weekday in the e-classroom for private, real-time chats. Use the "Who's Online" feature, select my name, then invite me to a live chat session. You may also contact me by sending an e-mail message using the e-mail tool in the eCampus classroom. I will respond to such e-mails within two working days at most (and generally within 24 hours).

If you need to speak with me but cannot see me during my office hours, call me for an appointment at 304-293-3811 extension 5274 or send me an e-mail using the WVU eCampus e-mail tool or e-mail me at Lucinda.Potter@mail.wvu.edu.

If you have questions about the syllabus or about any aspect of the class this semester, I hope you will talk with me. In addition to my office hours, I will be glad to set up an appointment if you give me 48 hours notice. Also, I will always try to respond to your e-mail or voice mail within 24 hours (often sooner). I am generally not online before 8 AM or after 5 PM; please be patient! One request: do not count on an immediate response on weekends or on University holidays.

Students are my top priority. Do not hesitate to call, to e-mail, or to drop by the office to discuss class business.

Student Evaluation of Instruction:

Effective teaching is a primary mission of West Virginia University. Student evaluation of instruction provides the university and the instructor with feedback about your experiences in the course for review and course improvement. Your participation in the evaluation of course instruction is both strongly encouraged and highly valued. Results are strictly confidential, anonymous, and not available to the instructor until after final grades are released by Admissions and Records. Information about how you can complete this evaluation will be provided later.

Academic Integrity:

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/admissions/integrity.html>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me **before** the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Statement on Social Justice:

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

I will foster a learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Any person that feels that this commitment is not being met should contact me immediately. Also, if you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation to participate in this class please advise me and, if necessary, make any appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Class Cancellation for Weather and Other Emergencies:

At some time during the semester it may be necessary for the University to cancel all or some classes due to poor weather, power failures or other emergencies. Because of the very nature of an online class in which students are participating from all over the world, a University class cancellation or closure will not automatically apply in this course. The WVU eCampus will still be operational in times of a University shutdown. In times of a power outage or system wide failure, the instructor will make an announcement in the WVU eCampus classroom as soon as information becomes available. **Assignment due dates are firm and will not automatically change if the University is closed.**

Special Note about Extended Learning Courses:

Students enrolled in extended learning web-based courses at West Virginia University are subject to special fees. Please see the Office of Extended Learning web site at <http://www.elearn.wvu.edu/> for further information.

POLS320 COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 August 22 – August 26

What is Federalism?

Begin Learning Unit 1 readings

WIMBA: Review the materials about WIMBA at <http://www.wimba.com/> . Review WIMBA's "getting ready" guide at http://www.wimba.com/support/assets/free_resources/WC_Getting_Ready_Guide.pdf
View the demos for WIMBA classroom <http://www.wimba.com/products/wimbaclassroom/> and WIMBA voice at <http://www.wimba.com/products/wimbavoice/>

WIMBA #1 Introduction to this class will become available on **Thursday August 25th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday August 28th** to earn attendance points

Discussion: Introduce yourself to your classmates using the discussion tool in the WVU eCampus virtual classroom by **Friday August 26th**

FIRST DAY OF CLASS Monday August 22nd

LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS Friday August 26th

Week 2 August 29 – September 2

The Philosophical Origins of American Federalism

Continue Learning Unit 1 readings

WIMBA #2 session will become available on **Wednesday August 31st**; listen by the end of the day on **Monday September 5th** to earn attendance points (NOTE: the deadline is extended due to the Monday holiday)

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Practice Writing Assignment due by Wednesday August 31st at midnight

Week 3 September 5 – September 9

The Philosophical Origins of American Federalism (con't)

Complete Learning Unit 1 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

WVU HOLIDAY Monday September 5

Week 4 September 12 – September 16

Can the States be Trusted? The Historical Development of Federalism

Writing assignment #1 due by the end of the day on Sunday September 11th at midnight

Begin Learning Unit 2 readings

WIMBA #3 session will become available on **Wednesday September 14th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday September 18th** to earn attendance points

Discussion: The **first quarterly discussion grade** based on participation through the end of the day on **Sunday September 18th** will be issued at the end of this week; remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 5 September 19 - September 23

Can the States be Trusted? The Historical Development of Federalism (con't)

Complete Learning Unit 2 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 6 September 26 – September 30

The Courts as the Umpire of the Federal System

Writing assignment #2 due by the end of the day on Sunday September 25th at midnight

Begin Learning Unit 3 readings

WIMBA #4 session will become available on **Wednesday September 28th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday October 2nd** to earn attendance points

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 7 October 3 – October 7

The Courts as the Umpire of the Federal System (con't)

Complete Learning Unit 3 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

MIDSEMESTER Friday October 7th

Week 8 October 10 – October 14

Are the State Laboratories of Democracy? Policy Diffusion Studies

Writing assignment 3 due by the end of the day on Sunday October 9th at midnight

Begin Learning Unit 4 readings

WIMBA #5 session will become available on **Wednesday October 12th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday October 16th** to earn attendance points

Discussion: The **second quarterly discussion grade** based on participation through the end of the day on **Sunday October 16th** will be issued at the end of this week; remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 9 October 17 – October 21

Are the State Laboratories of Democracy? Policy Diffusion Studies (con't)

Complete Learning Unit 4 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 10 October 24 – October 28

The Pros and Cons of Federal Mandates and Preemptions

Writing assignment #4 due by the end of the day on Sunday October 23rd at midnight

Begin Learning Unit 5 readings

WIMBA #6 session will become available on **Wednesday October 26th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday October 30th** to earn attendance points

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS Friday October 28th

Week 11 October 31 – November 4

The Pros and Cons of Federal Mandates and Preemptions (con't)

Complete Learning Unit 5 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 12 November 7 – November 11

International Dimensions of American Federalism

Writing assignment #5 due by the end of the day on Sunday November 6th at midnight

Begin Learning Unit 6 readings

WIMBA #7 session will become available on **Wednesday November 9th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday November 13th** to earn attendance points

Discussion: The **third quarterly discussion grade** based on participation through the end of the day on **Sunday November 13th** will be issued at the end of this week; remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 13 November 14 – November 18

Federalism in Action: Homeland Security Policy

Optional Bonus Assignment due by the end of the day on Sunday November 13th at midnight

Continue Learning Unit 6 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions
eSEI opens on **Monday November 14th**

THANKSGIVING BREAK November 21 – November 25

NO ASSIGNMENT and NO DISCUSSIONS

Take a real break!

Week 14 November 28 – December 2

Federalism in Action: Education Policy

Complete Learning Unit 6 readings

Discussion: Remember to read and respond to the graded discussions

Week 15 December 5 – December 9

Federalism in the 21st Century

Writing assignment #6 due by the end of the day on Sunday December 4th at midnight

Wrap-Up **WIMBA #8** Wrap Up session will become available on **Wednesday December 7th**; listen by the end of the day on **Sunday December 11th** to earn attendance points

eSEI closes on **Thursday December 8th**

Discussion: The **fourth quarterly discussion grade** based on participation through the end of the day on **Sunday December 11th** will be issued at the end of this week; remember to read and respond to the graded discussions. All graded class discussions will close **Sunday December 11th**

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY Thursday December 8th

LAST DAY OF CLASS Friday December 9th

Finals Week December 12 – December 16

No final in this class

Special Note about this WVU eCampus Course: In the event of a major systems failure or technical problem **that affects the entire class**, I reserve the right to make adjustments to this syllabus, the course schedule, or the assignments. The WIMBA Classroom archive sessions are subject to change based on the WIMBA Classroom system availability and demands.