

Political Science 506
Ohio Politics
Dr. Asher
Spring, 2002

2116 Derby Hall 292-1484
100 Bricker Hall 292-0803

SYLLABUS

This course will examine various features of Ohio government and politics, including the formal institutions of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—and the political processes and actors that shape Ohio politics and policies—elections, political parties and interest groups. Ohio’s economy and fiscal condition will be examined to determine how they affect Ohio’s performance in specific policy areas. The intergovernmental context of Ohio politics will be considered with particular emphasis on the relationship between national and state governments. Special attention will be given to the ongoing issue of the funding of primary and secondary education as well as to the funding of higher education. Finally, throughout the course, we will monitor developments in the 2002 state elections.

Students should gain from the course a basic knowledge of the nuts and bolts of Ohio government. More importantly, students should be able to analyze the performance of Ohio government, explaining how and why Ohio government has performed effectively and ineffectively.

Course Requirements

There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a paper; each counts one-third of the final grade. Students are, of course, expected to keep up with the readings. Class discussion and participation are strongly encouraged. The paper assignment is described at the end of the syllabus; note that there are three options for the paper.

Books

There are three required texts for this course; additional materials will be distributed in class or available on the Internet.

Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney, State and Local Government, fifth edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002.

Michael F. Curtin, The Ohio Politics Almanac, Kent State University Press, 1996.

Alexander P. Lamis (ed.), Ohio Politics, Kent State University Press, 1994.

www.dispatch.com

(Site Map, Special Reports, “From Deal-Making to Lawmaking”)

- Week 1: Introduction, Overview and Background**
State and Local Government, chapters 1 and 3.
Curtin, chapters 1-3 and 7.
Lamis, chapter 1.
- Week 2: Ohio's Social and Economic Environment**
State and Local Government, chapter 14.
Curtin, chapters 9-12. (There are a lot of numbers and statistics in these chapters. Do not worry about memorizing them. Look for broad patterns and trends. We will highlight the key points in class.)
- Week 3: Federalism and Ohio Politics**
State and Local Government, chapter 2.
- Week 4: The Governor and the Executive Branch**
State and Local Government, chapter 7.
Lamis, chapters 2-8, 12.
Curtin, chapter 4.
- Week 5: The State Legislature**
State and Local Government, chapter 6.
Lamis, chapters 10 and 11.
Curtin, chapter 5.
- Week 6: Financing Government; Issues of Public Policy**
State and Local Government, chapters 8, 15-18.
- Week 7: The Judicial Branch**
State and Local Government, chapter 9.
Lamis, chapter 13.
Curtin, chapter 6.
- Week 8: Local Government and Politics**
State and Local Government, chapter 10-13.
- Week 9: Political Parties and Interest Groups**
State and Local Government, chapter 5.
Lamis, chapter 14.
Curtin, chapter 8.
"From Deal-Making to Lawmaking." Columbus Dispatch Series
(available on-line)
- Week 10: Campaigns and Elections; The Media; Wrap Up**
State and Local Government, chapter 4.
Lamis, chapter 9 and 15.
Curtin, Appendix D.