



# *Independent Study* IN IDAHO

**PolS 275**

**American State & Local Government**

**Independent Study in Idaho  
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**The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with  
Boise State University – Idaho State University  
Lewis-Clark State College**

# Study Guide

*Independent*

*Study* IN IDAHO

PO Box 443225

Moscow ID 83844-3225

*Self-paced study. Anytime. Anywhere!*

## **Political Science 275 American State and Local Government**

University of Idaho  
3 Semester-Hour Credits

**Prepared by:**

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Associate Professor of Political Science  
University of Idaho

RV: 6/04  
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## Independent Study in Idaho

This course is offered by the University of Idaho.


### American State and Local Government

**3 Semester-Hour Credits: UI**

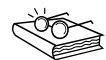
### Welcome!

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Before beginning this course, read the information provided below, including course description, prerequisites, required materials, course objectives, and information about lessons, exams, and grading.

### **Important!**

As you read this section, you will see the following icon: 

Use this icon to direct yourself to the **Appendix** in the back of this study guide for essential registration information, Independent Study in Idaho policies and procedures, and forms you will need to successfully complete this course. You are responsible for understanding and following ISI policies and procedures.



Turn to the **Appendix** now. Familiarize yourself with the information in the *Registration* section, student responsibilities in *Academic Integrity*, and the necessary forms. If there is anything you do not understand, please contact the ISI office for clarification before starting your course.

### Course Description

American state and local politics from a comparative perspective; focus on parties, interest groups, voting behavior, legislative and executive, judiciary, intergovernmental relations, and public policies.

### Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this course.

### Course Materials

#### **Required Course Materials**

- Dye, Thomas R. and Susan MacManus. *Politics in States and Communities*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2003. ISBN: 0-13-049670-7

Independent Study in Idaho course materials are available for purchase at the University of Idaho Bookstore. Visit the UI Bookstore's Web site, <http://www.uidahobookstore.com>, select *Textbook, Independent Study* for a list of course materials. You may order online, by telephone, (208) 885-7334, or by e-mail to [uibooks@uidaho.edu](mailto:uibooks@uidaho.edu).

Independent Study in Idaho courses are updated and revised periodically. Ordering course materials from the UI Bookstore at the time of registration allows you to purchase the correct edition(s) of textbooks, study guides, and supplemental materials. If purchasing textbooks from another source, refer to the ISBN(s) for the textbook(s) listed for this course to ensure that you obtain the correct edition(s). If you have questions regarding the course materials you have ordered and received, contact the UI Bookstore.

### Course Introduction

This course provides an overview of structures, processes and policies of state and local governments in the United States. Using comparative methodology, the course explores state and local politics, political

parties, interest groups, and intergovernmental relations in our federal system. The course begins by examining the constitutional foundations of state government and the evolution of state charters. Next it explores the powers and policymaking processes of the three branches of state government, and the institutional structure, politics, and leadership of local government. The course then moves to an exploration of the major problems and policy issues confronting state and local governments, including civil rights, health care, education, poverty, and local land use. The course concludes with an examination of fiscal problems and taxation.

## **Course Objectives**

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The basic goal of this course is to provide you with knowledge and understanding of state and local government and politics.

- By gaining this knowledge you should be able to understand, analyze, and evaluate political events such as elections, legislative sessions, and city council meetings that occur in your state and community.
- You should also have a better understanding of the major policy issues and policies confronting your state and community and should formulate your own opinion on existing and proposed policy solutions to them.

## **Lessons**

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### **Overview**

Each lesson includes the following components:

- lesson objectives
- reading assignments
- important terms
- introductory lecture
- written assignment

The written assignments consist of concept questions (each worth two points) and essays (worth 10 points each). All answers are to be written in essay form using complete sentences. Students should write in their own words when referencing authorities, and all quotations must include complete citations of the work from which they are taken. Do not copy from the textbook or any other book.

### **Study Hints**

- Complete all assigned readings.
- Set a schedule allowing for completion of the course one month prior to your desired deadline. (An *Assignment Submission Log* is provided for this purpose.)



See the **Appendix** at the back of this study guide for essential *ISI policies on submitting lessons to your instructor*. See the letters sent in your registration packet for *your instructor's requirements: how to format and submit lessons; number of lessons you may submit at one time, and lesson guidelines*.

## **Exams**

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### **Overview**

- You must wait for grades and comments on lessons prior to taking each subsequent exam.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the letters sent in your registration packet and the *Exam Information* sections in this study guide.

See *Grading* for specific information on exams, points, and percentages.

## Choosing a Proctor/Scheduling Exams

All exams require a proctor unless an exam is self-administered.



See the **Appendix** for guidelines on *how to choose a proctor and schedule exams*.

## Grading

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The course grade will be based upon the following considerations:

There are a total of 840 points possible in this course.

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Lesson Writing Assignments   | = 540 points        |
| (Concept questions are worth 180 points, essays are worth 360 points) |                     |
| 2. Exams: 3 worth 100 points each                                     | = <u>300 points</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | = <b>840 points</b> |

Grading is university scale:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| A = 90 – 100%          | = 756-840 points |
| B = 80 – 89%           | = 672-755        |
| C = 70 – 79%           | = 588-671        |
| D = 60 – 69%           | = 504-587        |
| F = Anything below 60% | = 503 or less    |

The final course grade is issued after **all** lessons and exams have been graded.



See the **Appendix** for information about *confidentiality of student grades, course completion and time considerations*, and *requesting a transcript*.

## About the Course Developer

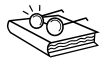
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Your course developer was Florence Heffron, an associate professor of political science at the University of Idaho. She received her Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Colorado. She is also Director of the Bureau of Public Affairs Research and the Masters in Public Administration at the University of Idaho.

## Contacting Your Instructor

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You will receive *course and instructor contact information* in your registration packet.



See the **Appendix** for detailed information on *contacting your instructor*.

## Disability Support Services

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See the **Appendix** for *information on Disability Support Services (DSS)*.

## Assignment Submission Log

| <b>Lesson</b>  | <b>Chapter</b> | <b>Written Assignment</b> | <b>Date Submitted</b> |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | 1              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 2  | 2              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 3  | 3              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 4  | 4              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 5  | 5              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| <b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 1.</b> |                |                           |                       |
| 6  | 6              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 7  | 7              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 8  | 9              | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 9  | 10, 11         | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 10   | 12             | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 11   | 13             | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| <b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 2.</b> |                |                           |                       |
| 12   | 14             | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |
| 13   | 15             | Concept & Essay Questions | ____                  |

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|           |           |                                      |              |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>14</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>Concept &amp; Essay Questions</b> | <b>_____</b> |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|

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|           |           |                                      |              |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>15</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>Concept &amp; Essay Questions</b> | <b>_____</b> |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|

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**It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take the Final Exam.**

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# Lesson 1

## Introduction to Politics in States and Communities

### Lesson Objectives

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1. To understand the role and importance of state and local governments and their political leaders.
2. To understand the method and value of the comparative approach to studying politics.
3. To identify the major differences and similarities among the states.

### Reading Assignment

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Dye, Chapter 1

### Lecture

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State and local governments play an increasingly important role in domestic policy in the United States. Two-thirds of expenditures for domestic functions are now made by the states and by local government. States and localities also provide many of the most basic and essential services, such as water, roads, education, police and fire protection, and sanitation services. Because of the impact they have on the life of every American, it is important to study and understand state and local governments.

The comparative approach examines the similarities and differences in politics and policies among states and communities and attempts to determine the variables associated with those similarities and differences.

### Written Assignment

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Please read the **Appendix** in the back of this study guide for essential Independent Study in Idaho policies and procedures, and forms you will need to successfully complete this course. You are responsible for understanding and following ISI policies and procedures. If there is anything on these pages you do not understand, contact the ISI office for clarification. Before starting the written assignment for Lesson 1, see the letters sent in your registration packet for your instructor's contact information and requirements: **how to format and submit lessons, number of lessons you may submit at one time, and lesson guidelines.**

**Concept Questions:** (2 points each) Define the following terms and explain how each term relates to state and local government in one or two paragraphs.

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. States/districts/commonwealth | 4. Liberalism                 |
| 2. Comparative political study   | 5. Conservatism               |
| 3. National Immigration Policy   | 6. State economic development |

**Essay Questions:** (10 points each) Answer the following questions in one to two pages each. Define any relevant concepts and incorporate specific examples to illustrate the main points.

1. Describe and discuss some of the variables that might influence state politics. Use any state of your choice to illustrate how those variables affect its politics.
2. Describe some of the policy areas that states and communities are responsible for. What are some of the biggest challenges that states and communities face in implementing policies? How are they meeting those challenges?