**American Federalism POL 313**

Fall 2022

Bishop 107

T/R 11:00-12:15pm

**Dr. Marvin King**

Associate Professor of Political Science and African American Studies

662-915-2054

[marvin@olemiss.edu](mailto:marvin@olemiss.edu)

Office: Residential College South 126

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:15pm, or by appointment

# Graduate Student TA

Amanda Fortson (email all questions related to Discussion Forums)

[ajweston@go.olemiss.edu](mailto:ajweston@go.olemiss.edu)

# KEY FALL 2022 DATES

Mandatory Drop Date for Non-Attendance: September 2

Deadline for Course Withdrawals (no refund): October 10

Current Event Assignments: September 22, October 13, November 10 (due at 11am)

Midterm Exam: October 18

Final Paper: December 6 (due at noon)

# PURPOSE

In this course, we explore all facets of American federalism, which is the relationship between the national government and state & local governments. Federalism is the fundamental tension in American government and politics, yet it is not given the credit it is due. At least twice in the nation’s history, first during the ill-fated governance of the Articles of Confederation, and once again during the Civil War, disputes over the actual practice of federalism nearly tore the country apart.

The semester starts with a thorough review of the Constitution and how it actually did and did not hash out the balance between national and state powers. We will review why the Framers opted for a federal system through a selected reading of the Federalist Papers. These essays, of course, were justification for the American Constitution, which was written in response to the Articles of Confederation, itself an indictment of the quality of confederations.

The Civil War and the New Deal each changed the landscape regarding state and national relations. This course will reflect on those periods as well as the contributions of several presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan, in particular, as examples of how individual presidents moved America to adopt particular practices regarding federalism.

American government is an evolving creature and while the Framers penned the Constitution, they, in fact, do not have the last word. The Supreme Court has had much to say about the actual practice of American federalism and we will look at critical court decisions and their effect on the efficacy of American federalism.

The final section of the course will examine important contemporary public issues, education, transportation, health care, civil rights, and labor issues such as the minimum wage, and how American federalism has transformed funding, attitudes and responsibility for them.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this semester, students can:

* Explain how and why debates over federalism brought the country together and nearly tore it apart;
* Explain the theoretical justification for a federal system;
* Describe the evolution in practice of American federalism;
* Discuss how the Constitution has changed (via the amendment process) to adjust to changing societal standards;
* Explain the two major political parties’ positions on federalism.

# SCHEDULE

Page six has the daily schedule.

# ACADEMIC HONESTY

Under all circumstances, students are expected to be honest in their dealings with the faculty, administration staff, and with fellow students. In speaking with members of the college community students must give accurate representation of facts at hand. Students must submit work that fairly and accurately reflects their own level of accomplishment. Any work that is not a product of the student’s own efforts is considered dishonest. Students may not submit the same work for more than one class. A student may be suspended or expelled for academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [M Book](http://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/MBook14.pdf) for additional information regarding the policy on academic honesty.

# REQUIRED TEXT

Banks, Christopher P., ed. 2018, *Controversies in American Federalism and Public Policy*. Routledge Press, New York.

All other readings are on Blackboard.

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY SYLLABUS POLICIES & PROTOCOLS

# Students are expected to comply with the University’s COVID protocols. Current protocols can be found at https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/. More information on isolation protocols can be found at: <https://healthcenter.olemiss.edu/covid-19-faqs/>. If you are absent due to COVID, you must follow the protocols and email me letting me know how long you will be away from class. At that point, you and I will determine how you will make up work missed while you are in quarantine.

# ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

I employ a variety of assessments with which to determine your final grade for the class: one (slightly past) midterm exam, three current event assignments, and a final paper.

Instead of printing your papers and bringing them to class, email all writing assignments to [marvin@olemiss.edu](mailto:marvin@olemiss.edu) in Microsoft Word format. Writing assignments are considered late if submitted after 11am after the start of that day’s class, with a 20-point penalty.

# MIDTERM EXAM

We will have one exam on **Tuesday, October 18**. The test will cover all material covered through **October 13**. The test will be parts multiple-choice, short answer and essay, but the bulk of the grade will come from the written portions of the test.

This test counts **25%** toward your final grade.

I allow make-up exams only if you obtain a University approved excuse. In lieu of a University-approved excuse, any student missing the exam will receive a zero.

# CURRENT EVENTS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Three times (September 22, October 13, November 10) you will take a current event news story and in a 1-page report explain how federalism affects it. You will need to connect your issue to the Constitution and to any relevant court case that explains how the Supreme Court has interpreted that issue. For instance, if you were writing about guns in schools, you would most likely discuss *United States v. Lopez*.

Each of these assignments is worth **10%** of your final grade for a total of **30%.**

Current Event #1 - find a story related to the role states should have in fashioning public policy. It can have a focus on any policy.

Current Event #2 - find a story related to: marriage equality, civil rights, health care, gun policy, or criminal justice

Current Event #3 - Find a story related to: Labor policy, Education policy, welfare policy, voting, immigration, drug policy, or environmental policy

# FINAL PAPER

You will turn in one paper, maximum 5-pages. This paper asks you to provide an in-depth analysis of a public policy issue and how federalism affects its implementation.

In this paper, you will write on the historical development of federalism within your chosen policy. You will conclude with a section detailing your views on your chosen policy issues as it relates to federalism. Your views must be based on the Constitution, court rulings, and actual legislation. I will post specific details regarding format on Blackboard later in the semester. The paper is due **Tuesday, December 6.** This paper counts **30%** toward your final grade.

# WRITING ASSIGNMENTS FORMAT

1. For the current events and the final paper, utilize American Political Science Association formatting with a few caveats.
2. [Style Manual for Political Science](https://connect.apsanet.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/07/Style-Manual-for-Political-Science-July-2020-Revision.pdf) (<https://connect.apsanet.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/07/Style-Manual-for-Political-Science-July-2020-Revision.pdf>)
3. [Citation Guide](Citation%20Guide) (https://guides.highpoint.edu/c.php?g=85880&p=552105)
4. For the current events, you **do not need** a cover page or an abstract. For the final paper, you **will need** a cover page and an abstract.
5. Time New Roman, 12-point font
6. Use 1.5 spacing
7. Submit your papers to me via email at [marvin@olemiss.edu](mailto:marvin@olemiss.edu)
8. Use Microsoft Word. Office 365 is free to UM students. Follow this [link](https://olemiss.edu/depts/it/computers.html) (https://olemiss.edu/depts/it/computers.html).
9. The current events papers are due at 11am on the appropriate date.
10. The Final paper is due at Noon on Tuesday, December 6

# DISCUSSION FORUM

Discussion is **15%** of your final grade. This will be assessed through your participation in five discussion prompts on Blackboard (e.g. see the schedule and prompts below). These discussion prompts will be open for roughly one week, so you need to participate within that window. Your grade depends on your contribution to the conversation. Yes/No questions and Yes/No answers do not contribute to the discussion.

Your responsibility is to **BOTH** a) Respond to the question prompt, and to b) Respond to at least two other students. We are looking for polite, respectful engagement. An appropriate response is roughly one paragraph (3 to 4 sentences). To get full credit you need to a) respond at least once to **TWO** other classmates’ posts in a manner that contributes to the discussion. Answers with links to fact-based research that explain your position are ideal. Answers that simply say, “I agree,” or “I disagree” will not get credit. Elaboration is the only way to receive full credit.

Importantly, I ask that you respect the diverse views of fellow students and utilize common courtesies during our discussion sessions. I will deduct points from your participation grade if your behavior degrades the learning environment.

# GRADING (+/- grading scale)

The Political Science Department maintains a "C" policy. Students must make at least a grade of C or better for the course to count towards the major.

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89 B: 83-86 B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69 D: 63-66 D-: 60-62

F: Below 60

Midterm Exam: \_\_\_\_\_\_x .25

Current Event 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_x .10

Current Event 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_x .10

Current Event 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_x .10

Final Paper: \_\_\_\_\_\_x .30

Discussion Forums: \_\_\_\_\_\_x. 15 (5 total, 3% each)

If you think an error has occurred in the calculation of your grade, it is your responsibility to provide me copies of your work. To that end, it is prudent to save all your coursework until you receive your final grade report.

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

We have a busy semester in front of us. With each of you contributing your best, I hope and expect you will take much from this class. This class utilizes lecture and discussion. I fully expect you to complete the assigned reading for that day’s lecture and come to class prepared to participate. I especially encourage students to ask questions, particularly if you need an item clarified or reviewed.

Importantly, I ask that you respect the diverse views of fellow students and utilize common courtesies during class. Please, while in class, refrain from eating, reading the newspaper. Make sure your cell phones are not a distracting nuisance to the instructor and others. Do not come to class to text or play on your phone, laptop or tablet. If you come to class to do those things, I will ask you to leave. If you do not want to pay attention in class, do not come to class. I am highly unsympathetic to people who distract others that are trying to learn. I am not likely to empathize with your excuses. Feel free to consult with me via email or stop by during office hours. Do *not* delay until late in the semester to seek help. By then it will be too late.

**DISABILITY ACCESS & ACCOMMODATIONS**

The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. You must also contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so that office can 1) provide you with an Instructor Notification form, 2) facilitate the removal of barriers and 3) ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* This syllabus is a guide for the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, but I will do my best to adhere to this syllabus.
* Use your olemiss.edu email address and please be accessible via Blackboard. Do not ask me to use a non-olemiss.edu address for your classroom correspondence.
* Do not come to class late or miss the exam. Any excuse needs to be of the University-approved variety. In other words, missing for a vacation will not cut it.

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Assignments & Exams** | **Topic** | **Readings** |
| Tuesday | Aug. 23 |  | Syllabus & Course Introduction |  |
| Thursday | Aug. 25 |  | Political Culture; Unitary v. Confederation; Pros & Cons of Federalism; Articles of Confederation |  |
| Tuesday | Aug. 30 |  | The Federalist Papers; Adoption of Constitution |  |
| Thursday | Sep. 1 | DF #1 Aug. 25 – Sep. 1 | No Class |  |
| Tuesday | Sep. 6 |  | Federalism in the Constitution |  |
| Thursday | Sep. 8 |  | Federalism and the Courts |  |
| Tuesday | Sep. 13 |  | Theories of Federalism |  |
| Thursday | Sep. 15 | DF #2 Sep. 8 – Sep. 15 | Political Federalism |  |
| Tuesday | Sep. 20 |  | Funding Federalism |  |
| Thursday | Sep. 22 | Current Event Report #1 Due | No Class |  |
| Tuesday | Sep. 27 |  | Public Policy and Federalism | Ch. 1 |
| Thursday | Sep. 29 |  | Gun Control & Criminal Justice | Ch. 2 & 4 |
| Tuesday | Oct. 4 |  | Health Care | Ch. 5 |
| Thursday | Oct. 6 | DF #3 Sep. 29 – Oct. 6 | Civil Rights |  |
| Tuesday | Oct. 11 |  | Marriage Equality | Ch. 6 |
| Thursday | Oct. 13 | Current Event Report #2 Due | Drugs/Marijuana Laws | Ch. 7 |
| Tuesday | Oct. 18 | Midterm Exam |  |  |
| Thursday | Oct. 20 |  | Environmental Policy | Ch. 8 |
| Tuesday | Oct. 25 |  | Immigration | Ch. 9 |
| Thursday | Oct. 27 |  | Voting | Ch. 10 |
| Tuesday | Nov. 1 | DF #4 Oct. 25 – Nov. 1 | Welfare & Poverty |  |
| Thursday | Nov. 3 |  | Education Policy |  |
| Tuesday | Nov. 8 |  | Labor Policy |  |
| Thursday | Nov. 10 | Current Event Report #3 Due | No Class |  |
| Tuesday | Nov. 15 |  | Adulthood |  |
| Thursday | Nov. 17 | DF #5 Nov. 10 – Nov. 17 | Campaign Finance |  |
| Tuesday | Nov. 29 |  | Abortion Policy |  |
| Thursday | Dec. 1 |  | Class Wrap |  |
| Tuesday | Dec. 6 | Final Paper Due |  |  |