

Professor Larry A. Bakken
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Office Hours
Wed & Fri 2:00-3:30
Thursday 3:00-4:30
Students are welcome to stop
anytime.

SYLLABUS

State and Local Government
Spring Semester- 2009
Wednesday and Friday 12:30-1:45
Room 06

Required Text: State and Local Government Law 7th ed., Richard Briffault and Laurie Reynolds, Thomson/West, 2009.

Suggested Reading: Local Government Law in a Nutshell, David J. McCarthy, Jr. and Laurie Reynolds, Thomson/West (2003).

Purpose: The focus of the class is local government and its importance in providing public services, regulating private activity, making public policy and providing for democratic participation. The course provides an orientation to states and local governments, which will include:

Introducing students to the institutions of state and local governments;

Presenting arguments in the longstanding constitutional political and legal debate over the allocation of power among various levels of government;

Presenting normative assessments of local government law;

Reviewing several models of local governments;

Studying and evaluating the basic local-state relationship and the rules that govern it; and

Examining significant cases and statutes framing local and state government as we know it today.

The course will also provide students with an orientation to Minnesota local government and to several state and national constitutions. Particular attention will be devoted to local government power and local government structure, local regulation of land use, local government revenues and citizen participation.

Coverage: Because of limitations of time some material in the text will be covered briefly or excluded. Special attention will be paid to metropolitan problems, state and local finance, government business/service delivery and the role of local governments in our federal system.

Class Format: The course includes lectures, questions/answers, discussion and case analysis. The case analysis approach will be the primary focus for class discussions. The course will also include guest speakers and public policy discussion. Students will be required to attend at least one local government meeting during the semester. Students will be expected to have read the required materials and should be able to discuss these materials in class.

Objectives: The course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of local government, the role of local government in society, the importance of participation in local government and its institutions. Students should also have an understanding of tax mechanisms and alternative revenue sources available to local and state governments. Finally students should have an enriched understanding of what local government is and its importance in society and to individual citizens.

Final Grade: The final course grade is based upon an examination, report, and a written paper. The examination is a typical law school exam consisting of two questions. This exam is (50%) fifty percent of the final grade.

Local Government Paper: (35%) thirty five percent of the final grade will be based upon a paper which examines a local government issue. The topic of the paper and a one page narrative must be approved by the instructor and is **due Wed. Feb. 11, 2009.**

- **Chapter One: Intro. and Background:** three to five (3-5) pages.
Due Fri, Mar 6, 2009.
- **Chapter Two: Body of Paper:** Current settings, description and identification of problems or concerns. Five to seven (5-7) pages. **Due Friday April 3 2009**
- **Chapter Three: Conclusions/ Solutions/Evaluation:** Four to five (4-5) pages.
Due Friday May 1, 2009.

The paper should be typed and properly documented. It should be fourteen (14) to fifteen (15) pages in length. The paper should contain a title page, a table of contents, a critical analysis section, footnotes, and a bibliography. The paper should also have a separate two to three (2-3) page executive summary. The paper should exhibit competence in written expression. It is both a scholarly and a professional work product so your writing should be clear, concise, and polished. Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected. The instructor reserves the right to refuse any manuscript that is not neat, legible, grammatically correct, and in the format specified. The text should be 12 point font, margins should be 1" on the right side, and top and bottom, left margins should be 1-1/2".

Report: Evidence of understanding of assigned readings, participation in class discussion should be reflected in a report of a local government meeting. The report should be four to five (4-5) pages in length. **Due May 5, 2009.**

Optional: Students may submit a research paper for a portion of their final grade. If the paper is C+ quality or better, the final course grade will be raised one-half grade. The

topic of the paper must be approved by the instructor. A one-page narrative outline of the topic must be submitted to the instructor **due Friday, March 13, 2009**. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and 10-12 pages in length. Text should be in a 12-point font Margins should be 1” on the right side and top; bottom, and left margins should be 1¼”. The paper should include a table of contents, footnotes, bibliography and a separate two page executive summary. The extra credit paper is **due Tuesday, May 5, 2009**. The final copy will not be returned.

Class Participation: The instructor reserves the right to increase the final exam grade by a half grade for any students making significant positive and regular contribution to class discussion. All students must participate in the class presentation.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and be prepared each day. According to school policy, students may miss six hours of class. When students miss the seventh hour of class a ten-page paper must be submitted to the instructor. If an eight hour of class is missed, a second ten-page typed paper will be turned in. On the ninth hour missed, the name of the student will be submitted to the Dean’s office and the student will be dropped from class. Please remember each class session is one and one-half hour in length.

Class Schedule:

| Date of Class | Topic | Readings |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Wed. Jan 21 | Introduction to State & Local Govt. | 1-59 |
| Fri. Jan. 23 | Continued & Local Governments In the Constitutional Order | 59-109 |
| Wed. Jan 28 | Continued & Foundation & Boundaries | 109-199 |
| Fri. Jan. 30 | Continued State & Local Relations | 252-314 |
| Wed. Feb. 4 | Continued | 314-370 |
| Fri. Feb. 6 | Continued | 370-406 |
| Wed. Feb. 11 | Continued & Interlocal Relations And Metropolitan Area Problems | 406-475 |
| Fri. Feb. 13 | Continued | 476-532 |
| Wed. Feb. 18 | Continued | 532-588 |
| Fri. Feb. 20 | Continued & State & Local Finance | 588-639 |
| Wed. Feb. 25 | Continued | 639-703 |

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| Fri. Feb. 27 | Continued | 703-763 |
| Wed. Mar. 4 | Continued | 763-819 |
| Fri. Mar. 6 | Continued | 819-877 |
| Wed. Mar. 11 | Business of Government | 878-935 |
| Fri. Mar. 13 | Continued | 935-995 |
| Wed. Mar. 18 | Open | |
| Fri. Mar. 20 | Continued | 995-1054 |
| Wed. Mar. 25 | Spring Break | |
| Fri. Mar. 27 | Spring Break | |
| Wed. Apr. 21 | State & Local Governments in a Federal System | 1055-1100 |
| Fri. Apr. 22 | Continued | 1100-1157 |
| Wed. Apr. 8 | Continued | 1157-1195 |
| Fri. Apr. 10 | Easter Break | |
| Wed. Apr. 15 | Continued | 1195-1213 |
| Fri. Apr. 17 | Continued | 1213-1239 |
| Wed. Apr. 22 | Open | |
| Fri. Apr. 24 | Open | |
| Wed. Apr. 29 | Review | |
| Fri. May 1 | Review | |
| Tues. May 5 | Papers Due | |
| TBA | Examination | |

