

**Political Science 382: State and Local Politics in the U.S.**  
**University of Washington**  
**Spring 2021**

**Jacob M. Grumbach**

Class Meetings: 1:30PM – 3:20PM, Monday-Wednesday

Office Hours: Monday 3:30 – 4:30PM in 131 Gowen

Email: grumbach@uw.edu

TA: Dennis Young (dyoung4@uw.edu)

### **Course Overview**

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Compared to other countries, the United States constitutional system gives a lot of authority to state and local governments. Proponents of this system of *federalism* argue that states and cities avoid “one size fits all” national policy and bring citizens closer to their policymakers. Opponents, on the other hand, suggest that federalism hinders progress on civil rights and empowers corporations and the wealthy. In this course, we will investigate the *causes* of the American system of federalism, and the *consequences* of this system of government.

The primary goal of the course is to help students become more critical, sophisticated observers and participants in American politics.

### **Course Texts**

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This is a *reading intensive course*, and it is imperative that you come to lecture and discussion section having done all readings. Because this course has no textbook, readings will not simply summarize the content from lecture; the readings instead provide additional theories and evidence that you will utilize in your paper and exams. All book chapters will be available on Canvas (see below), and all articles are available to UW students for free online (make sure to use the UW Library Proxy on your browser). In addition, you will almost always be able to find the readings by simply Googling the author and title.

Readings in **bold** are certain to appear on exams and paper assignments. Readings *not* in bold are recommended for doing well in the class, but are of lower priority.

### **Assignments and Grading**

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This course will have an in-class midterm, final exam, and one term paper (assignments to be provided on bCourses and in class). The components of your grade are distributed as follows:

Midterm Exam	25%
Reading Responses	10%
Final Exam	35%
Term Paper	30%

It is critically important that you attend all *lectures*. You are responsible for all material in assigned readings and discussed in class.

You will complete four **Reading Responses** (due on the Wednesday of Weeks 2, 3, 7, and 10). A Reading Response is a short paragraph, typically between three and five sentences, that *summarizes the argument* of one or more readings from the previous or current week. You will submit your Reading Response on Canvas. Perfect scores will be given for reasonable effort. Late Reading Responses will not be accepted.

The **Term Paper** (with a strict limit of 8 double-spaced pages) is due by the beginning of lecture on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Details of the Term Paper assignment, including paper topics and formatting instructions, will be sent out in Week 2. You will submit your Term Paper on Canvas. Late papers will be graded down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late.

You can also receive a small amount of extra credit for **creating a meme** about concepts from class.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any other act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Academic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or extension on a test or assignment, or the submission of essentially the same written assignment for two different courses without prior permission of the instructors.

## Week 1: Federalism and the U.S. Constitution

### Readings

- **Madison, James. "Federalist No. 45."** <https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers#TheFederalistPapers-45>
- Chapter 1 of Massey, Douglas S. 2007. *Categorically Unequal: The American Stratification System*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Rensink, Brendan. "Genocide of Native Americans: Historical facts and historiographic debates" in *Genocide of Indigenous Peoples: A Critical Bibliographic Review* 8 (2011): 15-36. Eds. Samuel Totten and Robert K. Hitchcock.
- **Yglesias, Matt. "American Democracy Is Doomed." *Vox*. 8 Oct, 2015.** <http://www.vox.com/2015/3/2/8120063/american-democracy-doomed>

## Week 2: Federalism Today

### Readings

- **Gerken, Heather K. 2012. "A New Progressive Federalism." *Democracy Journal*.** <https://democracyjournal.org/magazine/24/a-new-progressive-federalism/>
- **Konczal, Mike. "The Forgotten State." *Boston Review*. 18 July, 2016.** <http://bostonreview.net/books-ideas/mike-konczal-yuval-levin-fractured-republic-jacob-hacker-paul-pierson-american-amnesia>
- Miller, Lisa L. "The representational biases of federalism: Scope and bias in the political process, revisited." *Perspectives on Politics* 5.02 (2007): 305-321.
- **Rauch, Jonathan. 2013. "Marijuana and Same-Sex Marriage: A Common Path to Legalization." [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/marijuana-and-same-sex-marriage-a-common-path-to-legalization/2013/04/04/41a055d6-9ca3-11e2-9a79-eb5280c81c63\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/marijuana-and-same-sex-marriage-a-common-path-to-legalization/2013/04/04/41a055d6-9ca3-11e2-9a79-eb5280c81c63_story.html)**
- **Nader, Ralph. 2004. "State Legislatures as 'Laboratories of Democracy.'" <https://web.archive.org/web/20080924115109/http://www.commondreams.org/cgi-bin/print.cgi?file=%2Fviews04%2F0531-12.htm>**

## Week 3: Nationalization and State Resurgence

### Readings

- **Grumbach, Jacob M. "From Backwaters to Major Policymakers: Policy Polarization in the States, 1970-2014" 2018. *Perspectives on Politics* 16(2): 416-435.**
- **Hertel-Fernandez, Alex and Theda Skocpol. "How the Right Trounced Liberals in the States." *Democracy Journal*. Winter 2015.** <http://democracyjournal.org/magazine/39/how-the-right-trounced-liberals-in-the->

states/

- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*. June 2014.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- Foner, Eric. "Why Reconstruction Matters." *New York Times*. 28 March, 2015.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/opinion/sunday/why-reconstruction-matters.html>
- Chapter 1 of Katznelson, Ira. *Fear itself: The new deal and the origins of our time*. WW Norton & Company, 2013.

**Week 4: Federalism, Race, and the American Welfare State**

Readings

- **Foner, Eric. "Why Reconstruction Matters." *New York Times*. 28 March, 2015.**  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/opinion/sunday/why-reconstruction-matters.html>
- **Chapter 1 of Katznelson, Ira. 2005. *When Affirmative Action Was White*. WW Norton & Company.**
- **Weir, Margaret. "States, race, and the decline of new deal liberalism." *Studies in American Political Development* 19.2 (2005): 157-172.**
- Chapter 1 of Katznelson, Ira. *Fear itself: The new deal and the origins of our time*. WW Norton & Company, 2013.

**Week 5: Cities, Towns, Suburbs, and Housing [NOTE: Midterm on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>]**

Readings

- **Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*. June 2014.**  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- **Frank, Thomas. "Dead End on Shakin' Street." *The Baffler*. 2012.**  
<http://thebaffler.com/salvos/dead-end-on-shakin-street>
- **Trounstine, Jessica. "Segregation by Design" [Graphic Novel].**  
<https://faculty.ucmerced.edu/jtrounstine/COMIC.pdf>

**Week 6: Elections, Public Opinion, and Geography**

Readings

- **Starr, Paul. 2019. "The Battle for the Suburbs." *New York Review of Books*.**  
<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2019/09/26/cities-lose-battle-for-the-suburbs/>

- Caughey, Devin, James Dunham, and Christopher Warshaw. "The ideological nationalization of partisan subconstituencies in the American States." *Public Choice* 176.1-2 (2018): 133-151.
- **Ogorzalek, Thomas, Luisa Godinez Puig and Spencer Piston. 2019. "White Trump voters are richer than they appear." *Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/11/13/white-trump-voters-are-richer-than-they-appear/>**
- Rogers, Steven. "Electoral accountability for state legislative roll calls and ideological representation." *American Political Science Review* 111.3 (2017): 555-571.

### Week 7: Criminal Justice and Mass Incarceration

#### Readings

- **Serial, Season 3 [Podcast]. <https://serialpodcast.org/>**
- **Lantigua-Williams, Juleyka. 2016. "Are Prosecutors the Key to Justice Reform?" *The Atlantic*. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/05/are-prosecutors-the-key-to-justice-reform/483252/>**
- **Gottschalk, Marie. 2016. "The Prisoner's Dilemma." *The Baffler*. <https://thebaffler.com/salvos/the-prisoner-dilemma-gottschalk>**

### Week 8: Education

#### Readings

- **Dynarski, Susan. 2016. "Why American Schools Are Even More Unequal Than We Thought." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/14/upshot/why-american-schools-are-even-more-unequal-than-we-thought.html>**
- **Samuels, Alana. 2016. "Good School, Rich School; Bad School, Poor School." *The Atlantic*. <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/08/property-taxes-and-unequal-schools/497333/>**

### Week 9: States, Cities, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges [NOTE: Term Paper Due Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>]

#### Readings

- **Chapter 1 of Hacker, Jacob S. and Paul Pierson. 2020. *Let Them Eat Tweets*. Liveright.**

- Hajnal, Zoltan. 2018. “Why Does No One Vote in Local Elections?” *New York Times* . <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/22/opinion/why-does-no-one-vote-in-local-elections.html>
- Howe, Amy. “We gave you a chance: Today’s Shelby County decision in Plain English.” SCOTUS Blog. <https://www.scotusblog.com/2013/06/we-gave-you-a-chance-todays-shelby-county-decision-in-plain-english/>

### **Week 10: Review and Reflection**