

PUAD 609 - Topics in Public Management - State and Local Management
Fall 2012 Tuesdays 8:10 pm - 10:40 pm (8/28 - 12/4)

Professor: Joshua Franzel, Ph.D

Questions about the course? Contact the professor anytime over email, during working hours by phone, and/or pre-arrange an in-person appointment (either at AU or downtown DC).

Overview of the course: This class is designed to give students an in-depth overview of state and local government structure, roles, responsibilities, and relationships with other levels of government and other sectors. The class will also place an emphasis on several of the key issues governments around the U.S. are dealing with in 2012. The course will rely on documentation from both practitioner oriented organizations ("Big 7" state and local organizations: National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties, United States Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and the International City/County Management Association), as well as established academic text and journal sources (PAR, State and Local Government Review, etc).

How students will be graded:

One (1-3 page) Fact Sheet on a current local and/or state government topic of the student's choosing. The topics must be pre-approved by the professor at least a week before fact sheets are due. The fact sheets are to be geared toward state or local government elected, appointed, and/or executive level officials. **20% of grade.**

One (17-20 page) White Paper / Policy Paper, exploring in-depth, a current state and/or local government topic of the student's choosing. The topics must be pre-approved by the professor at least two weeks prior to the date they are due. **40% of grade.**

Class Debates: Following the Intelligence Squared debate format (<http://goo.gl/jkajC>) throughout the semester the class will have three formal debate conversations focused on three motions linked to current state and local government public finance, governance, and personnel topics. **20% of grade**

Class Participation: In addition to general class participation, throughout the semester students are expected to monitor mainstream and trade media for articles related to current state and/or local government issues. Each student will be asked to bring in one article and informally brief the class on the topic. **20% of grade.**

Structure of Course:

1. **8/28/12:** Class introductions. Introduction to state and local government management course structure and content. Sources for debate, fact sheet, and white paper research will be discussed.
2. **9/4/12:** Class Topic - State Structures and Services. For class read *Governing States and Localities* - Chapter 3, 7, 8 and check BlackBoard for additional readings.
3. **9/11/12:** Class Topic - Local Structures and Services. For class read *Governing States and Localities* - Chapter 11, 12 and check BlackBoard for additional readings. In class guest speakers: Lynn Tetley, City Manager, Wyoming, OH and Holly Eskridge, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Rockhill, SC
4. **9/18/12:** **1st class debate** {topic: consolidation and economic development, details to be provided in class the week before}. After the debate, Class Topic - Intergovernmental Relations / Federalism. For class read *Governing States and Localities* - Chapter 3 and check BlackBoard for additional readings.
5. **9/25/12:** Class Topic - State and Local Public Finance. For class read *Governing States and Localities* - Chapter 4 and check BlackBoard for additional readings.
6. **10/2/12:** **2nd class debate** {topics: public finance, details to be provided in class the week before}. After the debate, Class Topic - Current issues in state and local public finance. Check BlackBoard for readings.
7. **10/9/12 - Fact Sheets due in class.** Guest Speaker, Shane Dettman, National Capital Planning Commission. Check BlackBoard for readings.
8. **10/16/12** - Class Topic to be decided based on class topic interests.
9. **10/23/12** - No in-person class. Details will be provided via BlackBoard prior to 10/23/12.

10. **10/30/12:** Class Topic - State and Local Governments as employers. Check BlackBoard for readings.
11. **11/6/12:** **3rd class debate** {topics: employee compensation, details to be provided in class the week before}. After the debate, Class Topic - Regionalism
12. **11/13/12:** Class Topic - State and Local Government, Economic Development, and the 21st Century Knowledge Economy. Check BlackBoard for readings.
13. **11/20/12** - No Class - Thanksgiving Break
14. **11/27/12:** Topic - conversation about the future for state and local governments? What issues are on the horizon? What role will they play in citizens' lives? **White Paper Presentations, part 1**. Check BlackBoard for readings.
15. **12/4/12:** **White Papers due in class and presentations, part 2**

Texts and Articles - **Texts:** (1) Governing States and Localities, 3rd Edition by Kevin B. Smith, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Alan Greenblatt, former Governing Magazine reporter; Michele Mariani Vaughn, Governing Magazine and the Pew Center on the States (<http://goo.gl/Ez17J>); (2) State and Local Government, 2012-2013 Edition by Kevin B Smith, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. **Articles:** Articles will be selected from the following academic and practitioner journals, among other sources. All will be available through AU library databases and/or from the Internet. The instructor will provide details, via BlackBoard, on which articles to read and when as the course is taught. Sources: Public Administration Review; State and Local Government Review; State Politics and Policy Quarterly; American Review of Public Administration; Governing Magazine; Stateline; PM Magazine; American City & County.

About the Professor - Joshua Franzel is vice president of research for the Center for State and Local Government Excellence (slge.org) and works on public policy issues for the International City / County Management Association (icma.org). He has worked for both the Delaware and Florida legislatures, and has been a presidential management fellow with the International Trade Administration and the Office of Management and Budget. His publications and research have focused on state and local government management, public finance, workforce demographics, employee benefits and compensation, and government innovation. Dr. Franzel holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration from American University, an MPA from Florida State University, and a B.A. from the University of Delaware.

Other details:

Students should make themselves aware of the following resources:

- AU Academic Integrity Code: <http://www1.american.edu/academics/integrity/code01.htm> (please review this before the 1st class; students must complete their work entirely on their own; appropriate citation methods must be used when citing sources.)
- AU Academic Support Center: <http://www.american.edu/ocl/asc/>
- AU Counseling Center: <http://www.american.edu/ocl/counseling/>
- AU Disability Support Services: <http://www.american.edu/ocl/dss/>

note: syllabus may be slightly changed as course is taught