I. Introduction:

This course is designed to examine state legislative and executive offices. Addressing first the legislative branch of state governments, this course will evaluate the essential role of state legislatures within state politics. While the US Congress has received primary attention from political scientists and the media, state legislatures remain extremely powerful yet diverse institutions. As such, this course will evaluate the structures and organizations of state legislatures and the role of legislative elections as incentives for legislators once in office. Further connected to state legislatures, this course directs attention to state-based legislative policies like term limits and redistricting. Given recent and ongoing reforms throughout the states, both topics re-emerge as reforms that create legislative controversy. This course will also give primary attention to state governors. As the executive actors closest in nature to the US president, this course will survey the powers of state governors and the impact of those powers on both legislative affairs and state public policy. Additionally, the far-ranging topics of this course will lead students through the role of political parties and public opinion, as influences that affect the performance and policy-lawmaking of state legislatures and governors.

II. Required Text:

There are five books required for this class, which are available for purchase at the University Bookstore or through an on-line bookseller. If purchasing on-line, use expedited shipping as readings will begin very quickly. Additionally, there is one prepared reading available through the university library’s reserve service.

6. Prepared Readings. UTA Libraries Online: Course Reserves. URL:  
http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do

III. Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation – Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend each class and to arrive on time prepared to discuss the current week's readings. Class participation should reflect careful thinking about the readings. Each student will be assigned readings during several weeks of the semester. Students will be responsible for discussing those articles in class. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the week’s readings and will be graded on their understanding of the material for that week.

2. Topic papers – Each student is required to write three full-length double-spaced four-page papers. Papers will be assigned throughout the semester, as students will jointly be assigned readings for a particular week. Each paper should comment on the readings for the week, describing the key points and general conclusions of the week’s readings. The point will be to synthesize the readings and their key points. Weekly papers are due at the beginning of class and late papers will not be accepted.

3. Research Paper – Each student is required to write a semester research paper related to one of the themes of the course (e.g., voter-elite linkage, term limit effects, gubernatorial powers, divided government, etc.). Research should be independent and include the general components of a research design, including a research question, literature review, and several well-stated and theoretically sound hypotheses. Some introductory quantitative analysis is also acceptable and encouraged. A single-spaced one-page research prospectus is due on October 13th. The prospectus should detail the topic of the research project, the motivation for the project, and preliminary expectations. Failure to turn in the prospectus will result in a two grade penalty (20 points) on the final paper grade. Completed papers are due at the beginning of class on December 1st. Students are required to present their paper in class during the final two weeks of class. Presentations should include the general components of one’s research design paper. Late papers will not be accepted.

4. Examinations – There will be one final examination that will include two or three broad essay questions. All students will take the examination at the assigned time with no make-up exam allowed except for situations such as medical emergencies, deaths in the family, etc. In such situations, students are expected to contact the instructor as soon as possible and will be required to present proof in the case of a medical emergency. Failure to take an examination will result in a failing grade (0) for the examination.

IV. Grading: TBA

1. Attendance and Participation – 15%
2. Topic Papers – 25%
3. Research Design Paper – 35%
   a. Research Prospectus Due on October 13
   b. Final Research Design (30%) Due on December 1
   c. Class Presentation of Research Design (10%) on December 1 and 8
4. Final Examination – 25%

The grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Top grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy on incomplete grades (I’s): Given that an incomplete grade can be a permanent grade assignment, incompletes are strongly avoided. An incomplete grade will be assigned only in the most extreme cases of sickness that occur after the university’s withdrawal deadline.

V. Class Schedule:

Week 1: August 25
Introduction to State Governors and Legislatures

Week 2: September 1
Class Canceled
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/449007
Sarah Morehouse and Malcolm Jewell, 2004. “States as Laboratories: A Reprise.” ARPS,

Week 3: September 8
The Development of State Legislatures
Richard Clucas, 2007. “Legislative Professionalism and the Power of State House Leaders.” SPPO,
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/40421565
Peverill Squire, 1992. “The Theory of Legislative Institutionalization and the California Assembly.” JOP,
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/2132107

Week 4: September 15
Legislative Organization
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/439726
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/2647957
Ronald Hedlund and Keith Hamm, 1996. “Political Parties as Vehicles for Organizing U.S. State Legislative Committees.” LSQ,
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/440250
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/3118031
URL(JSTOR): http://www.jstor.org/stable/3088420

Week 5: September 22
Representation and Policy Linkage
Week 6: September 29

The Effects of Term Limits

Week 7: October 6

Member Career Goals

Week 8: October 13

Legislative Elections

Week 9: October 20

The Politics of Redistricting

Week 10: October 27

Powers of State Governors
Week 11: November 3

**Gubernatorial Elections**


Conor Dowling and Steve Lem, 2009. “Explaining Major and Third Party Candidate Entry in U.S. Gubernatorial Elections, 1980-2005.” *SPPQ*, URL (Direct): [http://spa.sagepub.com/content/9/1/1](http://spa.sagepub.com/content/9/1/1)


Week 12: November 10

**Governor-Legislator Relations and Divided Government**


Week 13: November 17

**Governors and State Politics in a Regional Perspective**


Week 14: November 24

**Thanksgiving Recess**

Week 15: December 1

**Class Presentations**

Week 16: December 8

**Class Presentations**

Final Examination: December 15, 8:15-10:45PM (Time is tentative, to be determined)

**Journal Key:**

American Journal of Political Science - AJPS
VI. Special Notes:

1. Correspondence – Occasionally, students may be contacted about course changes and other events. Correspondence will be directed to university email addresses, rather than personal email addresses which is not permitted by the university. Failure by a student to check their university email may result in missing assignments and grade penalties (e.g., weekly paper discussion and assignments).

2. Cell Phones – Students are requested to turn off their cell phones prior to class. If a cell phone rings during class, that student is expected to leave class for the remainder of the period.

3. Academic Integrity - All students are expected to obey the civil and penal statutes of the State of Texas and the United States, the Regents’ Rules and Regulations of The University of Texas System, the rules and regulations of the University, and the orders or instructions issued by an administrative official of the University or U.T. System in the course of his/her duties, and to observe standards of conduct that are compatible with the University’s function as an educational institution. Any student found to engage in cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will be sanctioned.

4. Inclement Weather – If a class is canceled due to inclement weather, its subject will be delayed until the following class. Similarly, all tests and assignments canceled because of inclement weather will be delivered during the following class. For information related to weather related class cancellations please call (972) 601-2049.

5. Students with Disabilities - Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

6. Diversity Policy – It is the policy of the University of Texas at Arlington that, to the extent provided by applicable laws, no person shall be denied employment or admission, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subject to discrimination under, any program or activity which it sponsors or conducts on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, disabilities, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

7. Syllabus Changes – The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester.