

POS 399: Selected Topics in American Politics: The Political Economy of New York State

Term: Spring 2008

Class number: 8832

Catalog number of the course: RPOS 399

Catalog title of the course: Selected Topics

Title of this Spring 2008 offering of "RPOS 399 Selected Topics:" **Selected Topics in American Politics: The Political Economy of New York State**

Location of class meetings: Earth Science Building, Room 242

Times, days and dates of class meetings: 5:45 pm to 8:35 pm, Thursday evenings, from January 23, 2008 through Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Date and time of final examination to be announced. Final examinations begin on May 8, 2008 and end on May 15, 2008.

Instructor's name and title: Frank J. Mauro, Lecturer

Instructor's contact information: fjmauro@albany.edu and/or 518-786-3156

Instructor's office hours: By appointment (Instructor does not have an office on campus but can meet by appointment at the Political Science Department's offices in Milne Hall and/or the Humanities Building.)

Catalog description of RPOS 399 Selected Topics: Investigation of selected topics in political science and/or public policy. Specific topics selected and announced by the instructor when offered. May be repeated once if the selected topic is substantively changed. Prerequisite(s): R Pos 101 or 101Z and 102, and permission of instructor.

Description of this Spring 2008 offering of "RPOS 399 Selected Topics:" POS 399, "Selected Topics," is a vehicle for offering courses on different "selected topics" (within Political Science) in different years. This Spring 2008 offering of POS 399 ("The Political Economy of New York") will examine the "economy" as a policy and political issue at the state level in the United States using New York State as a significant example of how this issue has evolved at the state level in the United States.

Overview of this Spring 2008 offering of "Selected Topics:" This course will provide a broad overview of the ways in which (1) changes in economic conditions affect state and local governments; (2) state and local governments frequently try to influence the economy; (3) New York State's economy has changed over the last 50 years and how those changes have affected public opinion, electoral outcomes and the parameters within which state budget and policy decisions are made; (4) selected industries have been represented in the policy process, and the policy changes that the state government has adopted to support those industries; and (5) which the state government has attempted to deal with the economic problems facing distressed areas of the state at particular points in time and why the state has not been able to sustain such efforts

Official Prerequisites: R Pos 101(or R Pos 101Z) and 102, and permission of instructor. For the Spring 2008 offering of this course, the "permission of instructor" is waived as a prerequisite for students who have completed those course prerequisites.

Grading

Grading for this Spring 2008 offering of RPOS 399 will be on an A-E basis.

Grading components:

Essay Assignment #1 - 15%;

Essay Assignment #2 - 20%;

Term Paper - 40%;

Final Exam - 25%.

Points can be deducted for absences or for failure to complete reading assignments.

Essay Assignment #1 due February 20, 2008 - a 5 page essay on the New York experience with a development discussed in Teaford.

Essay Assignment #2 due March 19, 2008 - a 5 page essay on New York's economy and its intervention strategies compared to one of the other three states profiled in Brace.

Term Paper due April 16, 2008 - a 20-page paper reviewing selected relevant developments of the last 20 years in the areas covered by a selected chapter in Schoolman and Magid. Meet with instructor to discuss topic selection on Friday, February 1 or as soon thereafter as possible; would like to schedule as many meetings as possible on February 1.

Date and time of final examination to be announced. Final examinations begin on May 8, 2008 and end on May 15, 2008.

Required readings available for purchase at the university bookstore :

Paul Brace, *State Government and Economic Performance*, John Hopkins University Press, ISBN: 978-0-8018-4971-8.

Susan B. Hansen, *Globalization and the Politics of Pay: Policy Choices in the American States*, Georgetown University Press, ISBN: 978-1-5890-1088-8.

Morton Schoolman and Alvin Magid, *Reindustrializing New York State: Strategies, Implications*, Challenges, SUNY Press, ISBN: 978-0-88706-178-3.

Jon C. Teaford, *The Rise of the States: Evolution of American State Government*, Johns Hopkins University Press, ISBN: 978-0-8018-6889-4

Recommended reading available at university bookstore:

Edward Schneier and John Brian Murtaugh, *New York Politics: A Tale of Two States*, M.E. Sharpe, ISBN: 978-0-7656-0065-3. (This book is recommended for reading by students who do not already have a reasonable understanding of (a) state government and politics, or (b) New York State government and politics, or (c) the government and politics of another specific state, from (1) prior coursework and/or (2) their own reading, and/or (3) work or internship experience, and/or (4) regular reading of news coverage of the government and politics of the states in the United States and/or the government and politics of New York State or another specific state.)

Class Schedule: Reading assignments should be completed by the dates indicated in the following schedule. Copies of readings not available for purchase at the university bookstore will be distributed by the professor either electronically or in class.

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 - Introduction and overview

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 - The states as governmental and political entities, part 1 - Read Teaford, Chapters 1 through 5

Wednesday, February 06, 2008 - The States as governmental and political entities, part 2 - Read Teaford, Chapters 6 through 8 and the Epilogue

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 - The States as economies - reading materials to be distributed

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 - The evolution of the New York State economy - Read "Socioeconomic Trends and Well-Being Indicators in New York State, 1950 - 2000." Essay Assignment #1 due (5 page essay on NYS's experience with a development discussed in Teaford.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - How the economy affects state governments; and how state governments try to influence the economy - Read Brace.

Wednesday, March 05, 2008 The political economy of intervention in New York - Reread New York sections of Brace

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 - Globalization and the Politics of Pay: Policy Choices in the American States, part 1 - Read Hansen, Chapters 1 through 3 and Appendices.

Wednesday, March 19, 2008 - Globalization and the Politics of Pay: Policy Choices in the American States, part 1 - Read Hansen, Chapters 1 through 3 and Appendices. Essay Assignment #2 due - 5 page essay on New York's economy and its intervention strategies compared to one of the other three states profiled in Brace.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 - - No Class; Spring Break

Wednesday, April 02, 2008 - Declining Industries in New York State - Read Parts I and II in Schoolman and Magid

Wednesday, April 09, 2008 - Local and Global Economic Development Strategies in New York; Revitalizing the Upstate Cities - Read Parts III and IV in Schoolman and Magid

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 - Infrastructure Investment and Technological Innovation as Economic Development Strategies in New York State - Read Part V in Schoolman and Magid. Term Paper Due.

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 - Federal-State Relations, Interstate Relations and the Political Economy of New York State - Read Part VI of Schoolman and Magid

Wednesday, April 30, 2008 - Overview and International Comparisons - Read Schoolman and Magid Part V

University Regulations

The instructor of every section of an undergraduate class at the University at Albany shall provide each student in the section a printed or web-published copy of the syllabus for that section distributed during the first week of the class (preferably on the first regularly scheduled day the section meets) This syllabus must contain at least the information defined below. Each instructor retains the right to modify the syllabus and give notice in class of any modifications in a timely fashion. Students are responsible to apprise themselves of such notices.

While it is strongly recommended that faculty specify in their syllabi information about academic integrity, as well as a description of the possible responses to violations, claims of ignorance, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures are not sufficient reasons for violations of academic integrity. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the standards and behaving accordingly, and UAlbany faculty are responsible for teaching, modeling and upholding them. Anything less undermines the worth and value of our intellectual work, and the reputation and credibility of the University