This course will examine the structure of politics and government in New York State, with an emphasis on the current state of governmental affairs in the Empire State. Particular emphasis will be placed on the history and structure of New York State Government, and the role of our statewide elected (and appointed) officials (Governor, Lt. Governor (which is currently unfilled), Attorney General, and Comptroller) in the process.

This being the first full year of the new Paterson Administration, and the first year of the newly elected Democratic majority in the NYS Senate, we will pay particular attention to the programs and policies advocated by the new Democratic Governor, David Paterson, in implementing the reforms promised when both he and Former Governor Eliot Spitzer campaigned for office, and the promised reforms of the new Democratic Senate majority.

We will also examine the role and relationship to State Government of local government in New York State.

Instructor: Professor John Sullivan
Class meets Thurs. 5:45-8:35 pm in Room 151 CH.

E-mail: JTS04@omig.state.ny.us
Ph.—Ofc 518-408-0371

Course text:
Paperback ISBN10: t-930912-16-r ISBN13: 978-t-93091-216-g Release Date: Dec 2006 http://www.sunypress.edu/ This is a relatively new Text and it is available in the bookstore.

Course materials: WWW.Empirepage.com This is a daily compilation of NYS Government and Politics stories for which you will be given a temporary password.

Course Description: The instructor has an extensive background in State and Local Government and is presently serving as the Deputy Medicaid Inspector General for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. (See attached bio).

This course will survey historic, economic, social and demographic factors in New York State, and their impact on both State and Local government in New York. We will examine the functioning of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government, and the relevance of political parties in the process. Political parties, their organization, structure and impact on the body politic will also be examined.

A number of guest speakers are planned, including representatives from each branch of NYS Government, along with several local elected officials.

Class Schedule: Thursdays, 5:45-8:35 pm, CH Room 151.

Thirteen scheduled class meetings--January 22, 29, February 5, 12, (19-no class Winter break) 26, March 5, 12,19,26, April 2, (9-no class Spring Break), 16, 23, 30th Take home exam thereafter.
Attendance is mandatory. If you anticipate missing class on two or more Evenings it is suggested that you not take this class, as one evening constitutes three normal class sessions.

Typical class sessions will include presentation by students of topical news Articles and discussion, break, then a lecture on the topic of the evening and discussion, break, followed by a guest speaker, or other A/V type presentation. Missed class sessions may result in a one grade level reduction in course grade. Course requirements will include a research paper of your choice, dealing with a topical issue involving New York State Government (30% of grade). Oral presentation on papers will also be required.

Class attendance, participation, and oral presentation will count for 40% of the final grade. The final exam will count for 30% the grade.