Scope and Purpose:

This class is designed to deepen and expand students' understanding of government and nonprofits. The course covers collaborative governance involving the various levels and units of government (i.e., local, state, and federal government) and their relationship with the non-profit sector with regards to how human services are delivered.

We will take a comparative approach. The first half investigates the functions of local, state and federal governments and how each level of government has a hand in most of the country’s new policies and political ideas.

The second half focuses on selected areas from education, crime and punishment, health and welfare, and the environment and how nonprofit organizations function, advocate on behalf of these public policy issues and their role in delivering services in conjunction with governments.

Throughout the course, will we also incorporate in our discussions how other entities (i.e. advocacy groups, unions, the media, etc.) influence policy and by extension, governance.

Our learning objectives include: learning to evaluate the structure and process of governance at different levels and its relationship to nongovernmental organizations, enhancing our analytical skills through reading and evaluation, locating and properly citing appropriate research materials, and becoming better written and oral communicators. You will demonstrate attainment of these objectives with your performance on exams, written assignments, and class participation and presentation.
We will be discussing a wide range of issues in this class. Sometimes you will have questions: feel free to ask them. Sometimes you will disagree with a classmate. Sometimes you will disagree with me. That's okay! The process in this class is about deliberation and reasonable people often disagree. As long as we all treat each other with respect, we stand to learn a great deal from our discussions.

**Required Texts:**


**Suggested Sites:**
While the bulk of our class discussions will be drawn from topics outlined by our required texts, a number of sites will be helpful for you to gather information for assignments and to stay informed of local, state and national issues and politics. Refer to the following:

New Jersey Issues and Politics:
http://www.njspotlight.com/
http://politickernj.com/
http://www.njpp.org/

Regional and National Newspapers:
http://www.nytimes.com/
https://www.washingtonpost.com/
http://www.wsj.com/

State and Local Issues:
http://www.governing.com/
http://www.pewresearch.org/
http://www.cato.org/
http://www.brookings.edu/
http://www.ncsl.org/

*Feel free to find other sites if you need to; this list is not completely exhaustive. Also, at times, I may post additional readings from these sites on Blackboard,
which will need to be read prior to class as they will be part of the session’s discussion.

**Blackboard:** This course will be managed through the University Blackboard system. Blackboard is an internet-based information display system, and it will be a primary means of communication for this course. Throughout the semester, I will post documents such as lecture slides, and homework solutions to this site. In addition, I will occasionally send e-mails about course logistics to your Rutgers e-mail account through the Blackboard system. Therefore, you should check both the course website and your Rutgers e-mail account on a regular basis. To login, enter your Rutgers username and password. Please take some time to learn how to use the Blackboard and get familiar with its contents. The Blackboard login page is at: https://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_id=_1_1

**Professionalism:** Professional conduct is expected, especially with respect to deadlines, participation, and attendance. Note the dates and put on your calendars immediately. YOU need to adjust your schedules to meet the requirements of this course. Homework will not be accepted late and should be turned in at the beginning of class on due date unless otherwise specified. It is your responsibility to get information and notes from your colleagues when you miss a class. It is also your responsibility to come to class prepared. A grade of Incomplete is recorded only under extreme circumstances that occur at the end of the semester and with written agreement between instructor and student. It is not an automatic option and almost never used. Non-attendance will not result in a grade of Incomplete.

**Requirements and Grading:** Students are required to complete assignments by due date and be ready to discuss them in the class session. Your course grade will be determined as follows:

- Policy Papers (1) 20%
- In-class Reflection Papers/Participation/Attendance 15%
- Exams (3) 45%
- Interview Paper (1) 20%

**Policy Paper:** Each student will create a 3-5 page (typed, double-spaced) paper that summarizes and critiques a current event or policy issue. The audience you are writing for is Mayor Ras Baraka or Governor Chris Christie – 12/12/2015. You will want to present the facts of the case and, more importantly, provide advice--what position should they take on the designated issue and why? The goal of this writing assignment is to develop your skills at writing. Your knowledge of
the event/policy will be based on a magazine, newspaper, or internet site article, which you will staple to the back of your paper when you turn it in. The article(s) you choose should be about a specific event or controversy in the news. In this letter, you should take a clear position (pro, con, or somewhere in between) on an issue. Your paper should demonstrate that you: 1) understand and can summarize/describe the issue thoroughly; 2) have thought critically about the issue at hand; and 3) can develop a reasonable plan of action for the mayor or governor to take.

In-class Reflection Papers/Participation/Attendance: Come to class; it is hard to participate if you are not here! I want to reward you for taking an active role in your education. I also want to encourage you to come to class, pay attention, answer my questions, and join in class discussions. More than three absences over the course of the semester will result in serious damage to your participation grade. I will call on you to answer questions. I'm not expecting "right" answers--sometimes there isn't a right answer; I am expecting thoughtful and intelligent answers that demonstrate you have done the reading and are paying attention. Additionally, in-class reflection papers, and other in-class activities will become part of your participation grade. *If you are not in class, you will not receive credit for the reflection papers.*

Grading Rubric:

**A** - You are an outstanding, invaluable contributor to class discussions. The class would be considerably poorer without your presence. You speak often, engage your fellow students, and always offer intelligent, thoughtful opinions. Your level of energy and enthusiasm is very high. You are passionate about learning and come to class with an open mind to new ideas; you always show great motivation and interest. You complete all the assignments, and you do an excellent, thorough job on each one. You come to every class session and you are always on time. You care about your classmates and how they are doing in class.

**B** - You are an active participant in class discussions. You seem to be showing a great deal of interest, even if you are a naturally quiet person. You are a very active listener, and you appear to respect the opinions of your fellow students. You often contribute many intelligent ideas to the class discussions. You complete all the class assignments, and it appears that you put a great deal of thought and effort into them. You go beyond what is required of you. You are absent or late to no more than 2 classes.
C - You have an acceptable level of class participation. You occasionally participate in a class discussion, although not very much. If you are a naturally quiet person, you at least seem to be paying attention and showing interest. You complete all the assignments and you do what is required of you. You are absent or late to no more than 4 classes.

D - You are physically present in class, but your mind seems to be somewhere else. You do not seem to pay attention (or even to disguise your boredom). You rarely participate in class discussions. Even when called on to answer a question, you have very little to say. Sometimes you seem to be on the verge of sleeping, or melting into your chair. You complete the assignments, but it appears like you put little time or effort into them. You are late or absent more than 4 times.

F - You miss class often. You do not participate at all. You show no interest whatsoever in the subject matter, the readings, or the opinions of your fellow students. You do not complete many of the assignments. Overall, you put no effort into the class. You are absent or late to class more than 7 times.

Homework assignments:
Assignments are due at the beginning of lecture on the designated date. Any assignment submitted after that time will receive a penalty of 10% per class day late, but the total penalty will not exceed 50% of the points available for the assignment. Late assignments will be accepted until the start of the final examination. No assignments will be accepted after the start of the final examination.

Assignments will not be accepted by email. If you need to miss lecture, you may either leave your assignment in my mailbox before class begins or arrange for a classmate to submit it for you in class.

Assignments must be typed and stapled. Handwritten assignments will not receive any credit.

Each student must write and submit his or her own assignment. I encourage you to work on assignments in small groups, but two or more students turning in identical homework assignments constitutes cheating and will be reported to the administration and subject to disciplinary action.

Course rules and requirements:
1. To do well in this course you must devote a significant amount of time. Please keep in mind that the material presented in the course builds cumulatively. Do not fall behind, as it is nearly impossible to catch up once that happens.

2. Reading assignments must be completed before each lecture. (Note that you have a reading assignment for the first class!)

3. If you need to miss class, you do not need to notify me. However, you are responsible for finding out what you missed—including any announcements made in class—from one of your classmates.

4. There are no extra credit assignments and no make-up exams. Please note the date of the assignments and exams. Schedule accordingly. There will be no make-ups for the exams or presentations. You are responsible to be in class on these days. This is the sole time all semester that I require you to be in class. If you are unable to schedule these hours into the semester, it is recommended that you not enroll in the current semester.

5. If you have logistical questions, please check the syllabus and website before emailing me! You can find the answer to almost every conceivable question in the syllabus or on the website.

6. The School of Public Affairs and Administration has a strict policy regarding incompletes. The grade of "Incomplete Pass" will only be available in extreme circumstances such as serious medical emergencies. Students may withdraw from the course up until the date set by the Registrar. Students who withdraw will receive a grade of “W” and will have to pay for the course again when they retake it.

7. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the School’s educational mission and your own personal and intellectual growth. You are expected to bear individual responsibility for your work and to uphold the ideal of academic integrity. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be reported to the administration and subject to disciplinary action. Additionally, academic dishonesty will also result in 0 points for the assignment or exam. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on – and disciplinary process associated with – plagiarism at the following website:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity

And with the following documentation (pdf):

**Appeal procedure:** If, after an exam or assignment is graded, you believe that additional credit is deserved, you may submit a written appeal for up to one week after the assignment is graded. Your appeal should be a typewritten page or less explaining specifically: which items deserve more credit and why. Please note: your argument must be based on the answer actually turned in. Please do not give a new answer and expect more credit. Also, the argument “I meant to say…” doesn’t work.

**Disability services:** Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide me with a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, so please let me know about them as early as possible. Further information is available at the ODS website, http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/

**Other Class rules:**
Out of respect to the professor, guest lecturers, and your classmates:
1. Cell phones must be turned off during class.

2. Computers are not allowed in class; though sometimes helpful for note-taking, we find that they provide too much distraction because of the internet, email, etc. and disrupt class discussion and participation. (Please see instructor if you have any special needs that require you to use a computer for note-taking, rather than hand-writing notes, as per our policy above.)

3. Please arrive on time to the start of class.
Course Outline (Note: This syllabus is subject to change).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Introductions &amp; course overview – Intro to Section #1 – Discuss Interview Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Local and State Governments</td>
<td>GSL Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>GSL Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>State and Federal Constitutions; Review for Exam #1</td>
<td>GSL Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>EXAM #1; Intro to Section #2 – <strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Finance; Political Attitudes and Participation</td>
<td>GSL Chapters 4&amp;5; <strong>Interviews due</strong></td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Parties and Interest Groups; Turning Laws into Politics</td>
<td>GSL Chapters 6&amp;9</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Legislatures; Governors and Executives; Review for Exam #2</td>
<td>GSL Chapters 7&amp;8</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>EXAM #2; Intro to Section #3 – <strong>Guest Speaker</strong> – Discuss Policy Paper Assignment</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Intro to US Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td>AWC, Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Education &amp; Crime and Punishment</td>
<td>GSL Chapter 13 and AWC Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING RECESS – NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5*</td>
<td>Health and Welfare</td>
<td>GSL Chapter 16 and AWC Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Environment &amp; Climate Change – <strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
<td>GSL Chapter 16 and AWC Chapter 7; <strong>Policy Paper due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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**WINTER RECESS**