

WELCOME TO POLITICAL SCIENCE 511J

LEGAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: AN INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

UNCG
Fall, 2016
Designated Saturdays 9:00-11:50 a.m.

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(I love e-mail!)

Course Objective: This course is designed to provide an overview of selected local government law topics and to briefly introduce the study of administrative law.

Learning Outcomes: The course readings, written assignments and in class exercises are designed to produce the following outcomes: You will: (1) learn about selected legal principles in state and local government law and administrative law; (2) become familiar with and be able to locate legal resources relating to state and local government law and administrative law; (3) learn the fundamentals relating to the research for addressing local government legal problems; and (4) be able to analyze and apply case law, statutes, and administrative regulations in preparing basic reports relating to issues in state and local government law and administrative law.

Course Approach: The classes will be seminar style with general discussion and students will be called upon to brief and analyze cases and to summarize and comment upon statutes and other readings. Also, occasional in-class exercises will be conducted in connection with current class topics. Each student should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings and cases.

Course Materials:

There is no text for this course. **Course materials will be distributed via e-mail.**

Each student shall send an e-mail to mrhurley99@gmail.com to be

placed on the e-mail list.

<u>Evaluation Components</u>	<u>Graduate Points</u>	<u>Undergraduate Points</u>
1. Class participation. ¹	10	10
2. Two (2) one page briefs of certain assigned cases and a summary (not to exceed two (2) pages) of N.C.G.S. Section 14-234	20	20
3 Perform the necessary research for and then write a city ordinance on a selected area of regulation authorized for municipal government. Additionally, prepare a brief memorandum (not to exceed two (2) pages) justifying the adoption of and providing the legal authority for the ordinance you have written. The class will be divided into small groups and each group will be responsible for writing a municipal ordinance.	30	30
4 A short paper (not to exceed six (6) pages <u>double-spaced</u>) discussing and taking a position on a local government and/or administrative legal issue or issues. This paper shall cite and apply relevant cases, statutes, administrative rules and regulations. Also, this paper should make suggestions for a recommended course of action for addressing the issue examined. Each student will present a 5 minute summary of his or her paper in class on a date to be announced.	40	45

Classes: Saturday mornings on each date designated below
- 9:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

¹ **PLEASE NOTE: No one will receive a grade of "A" unless there is adequate class participation. No exceptions.**

August 27, September 17, October 8, November 5, and November 19

Deadline for final paper and to turn in any make-up work: Final day of regularly scheduled classes, Monday, November 28 at 5:00 o'clock pm.

SCHEDULE

Aug 27: Class I Legal systems and Selected Topics - Local Government Law

- A. Introduction to legal issues in public administration - to legal systems - reading and briefing cases, and to legal resources.
- B. Local government's constitutional protections
- D. Home rule

September 17: Class II Selected Topics - Local Government Law

- A. Prohibitions on special legislation
- B. Conflict and preemption
- C. Constitutional limitations on local government
- D. Conflicts of interest

THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHEDULE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON SEPT 17.

A NOTE ON CLASS ATTENDANCE

This course deals with material that is complex and generally unfamiliar to most students. It uses a different vocabulary and requires discussion of legal principles to gain an adequate understanding and mastery of the course work. Our class time is limited to only five sessions. Therefore, your thorough preparation, prompt (and regular) attendance and active participation at all classes is necessary and required. It is understood that circumstances and emergencies may arise that make it impossible for you to attend all classes, and if so, you must speak with the instructor about your absence. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.