

**Government and Politics of New Jersey 21:790:359:01**  
**Monday/Wednesday 4:00-5:20pm**  
**Teaching Instructor: Connie Murray**  
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**Fall 2018**  
**Room Hill Hall 106**  
**Office Phone: 973-353-5753**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:30pm**  
**Wednesday 3:00-4:00pm**

The following texts are available to be purchased at the Rutgers bookstore:

New Jersey Politics and Government  
by Barbara G. Salmore and Stephen A. Salmore  
Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2013

The Pine Barrens  
by John McPhee  
New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1968

The Jersey Devil  
by James F. McCloy and Ray Miller, Jr.  
Moorestown, New Jersey: Middle Atlantic Press, 1976

Standing on Principle  
by James J. Florio  
New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2018

Government and Politics of New Jersey focuses on the organization, functions, and administration of the New Jersey state government. It emphasizes significant state problems and proposed solutions. It studies the theory of state political cultures of Daniel Elazar and applies his theory to the state of New Jersey. Other aspects of New Jersey's history, political culture and pop culture are also examined and analyzed.

Students should purchase The Star Ledger (or access it on line) every day and skim it for emerging news about the governor, state court cases, proposed legislation and policies, corruption and scandals as they appear. The Star Ledger is considered the premier state newspaper and is often called the fourth branch of New Jersey government. The New York Times also has a Sunday section on New Jersey that students should skim for relevant material. The Asbury Park Press is also a source for New Jersey news.

The course will be conducted interactively; therefore, students should read the materials required for the session before coming to class in order to participate in the class discussions. Class participation, which includes punctuality, attendance, sharing of current articles, and contributions to class discussions, will be a determining factor in the student's grade. **Grades will be based on presentation of relevant articles 10%, local meeting paper 10%, midterm 40%, and final 40%.** Essays should be comprehensive, explaining and elaborating on points made and not just an outline. The midterm will be in essay form and the final is multiple choice. The midterm will be **October 22 during the class period and the final will be Wednesday, December 19, 3:00-6:00pm during final exams week. Arrive on time at 3:00pm for the final exam. Do not expect the professor to stay just for you when all other students have completed their exams. Do not bring electronic equipment into the classroom during the midterm and final. A grade earned is a grade received. Do not ask for extra credit assignments.**

A strict attendance policy will be applied. Roll will be taken at each class session. More than two inexcusable absences will result in a reduction of the student's grade by one letter grade for each absence after the second. Excusable absences include a personal illness, a death in the immediate family, the illness of a student's child, or the illness of a student's parent. All other excuses will be recorded as inexcusable. Having to work is not a reason to be excused. University responsibilities are designed to be the student's first priority. Excused absences should be reported to the professor so that they might be recorded. Please do not ask to reschedule a midterm or final because of travel plans. Make your travel plans so that they will not interfere with your educational responsibilities. A makeup exam will only be permitted in a dire emergency. A makeup exam cannot be administered by the department's administrative assistant; therefore, it will be scheduled at the professor's convenience. University officially sanctioned religious holidays may also be excused. The professor should be notified about an absence due to a religious holiday. Do not talk on a cell phone or text during a class.

Students should carefully adhere to Rutgers' policies on academic integrity. Anyone discovered cheating on an exam or plagiarizing papers will be failed and reported to the proper university authority.

Students should be respectful of other students and the professor. A lack of civility will not be tolerated.

#### **Academic Calendar Changes**

Tuesday, November 20, follows a Thursday schedule

Wednesday, November 21, follows a Friday schedule

#### **Essay on former Governor James J. Florio**

When the class reaches the unit on New Jersey Governors, students will read former Governor James Florio's autobiography, Standing On Principle. There will then be an in-class essay where students should analyze the issue positions taken by Governor Florio. What successes did he have in convincing Congress and the state legislature to pass laws based on his priorities? What were his arguments used to promote the issues he found important? Were there issues that he did not succeed at? Why? What personal experiences inspired his issue positions? Students should use quotes from the autobiography to demonstrate the points they are making. Students may bring the book with them to class. The book may be marked with post-its where the quotes are located in the book. When quoting, page numbers should be indicated in the essay in parentheses. The date of the essay will be determined as the class reaches the unit on New Jersey governors. The grade on the essay will represent 30% of the final exam grade.

#### **Local Government Meeting Paper**

Each student is required to attend an official public meeting of a municipality (not a working session or a meeting of a special agency) at the local government level in New Jersey and prepare an analysis of the meeting in writing. Every effort should be made to attend a meeting of the municipality in which the student lives. If this is not possible, select another municipality whose meeting is convenient. Contact the municipal office to find out the date, time and location of the meeting. Do it early in the semester. Papers may **not** be turned in late because the student waited until too late to attend the meeting before the due date of the paper. Most municipalities meet only twice a month on a predetermined weeknight. Plan ahead. Failure to plan ahead will result in a reduction of the paper's grade.

Address the following questions in the paper:

1. What form of government is used by this municipality? (Such a Mayor-Council, Council-Manager, Commission, etc.) The municipal clerk can help you with this question. In what ways are the major features of this government form evident at the meeting?
2. How are the executive and legislative roles handled at the meeting?
3. How much attention is given to other levels of government? That is, to what extent and in what ways are federal or state government monies, programs, regulations, or officials mentioned? Also note references to special purpose districts.
4. What is the level of citizen participation at the meeting (in terms of attendance, questions, issues raised)? Are the citizens organized as spokespersons representing formal or informal groups or do they simply participate as interested individuals?
5. What are the major issues the meeting deals with? Briefly discuss the most important or interesting issues. Discuss the issue with the citizens present or with the municipal officials, if desired, and report in your paper what their insight into the issues are.

The purpose of the paper is to focus the student's attention on some general questions regarding local governments in New Jersey. Thus, the student is expected to include her or his observations of each of the questions above. A simple recounting of the events of the meeting is not sufficient.

The paper is due on **November 12**. The class members will discuss their local meeting experiences on that day. The paper should be typed and double-spaced and be at least 3 pages. Late papers will be penalized.

### Readings and Lectures

Distribution of Syllabi

Introduction of Class Members

Case study of local activism: Blocking an extension of a warehouse in Farmingdale, NJ  
Saving Glen Park in Williamsville, NY

Read: "A Ban on a Bear Hunt Puts Everyone in Dismay." The New York Times, August 22, 2018. Page A15.

"Will Murphy suspend New Jersey bear hunt?" The Asbury Park Press, May 20, 2018. Page 8A.

Political Culture lecture: Daniel Elazar

The political culture of New Jersey (lecture)

Read: Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 16 in Salmore and Salmore  
The Pine Barrens by John McPhee

The Jersey Devil Read: The Jersey Devil by McCloy and Miller

The Social and Economic Conditions in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War (lecture)

Quakers and their influence in New Jersey (lecture)

New Jersey's Constitutions

Read: Salmore and Salmore Chapter 7  
Video: New Jersey's Constitution at 50 Years

#### Federalism

Read: Chapter 2,3, and 13 in Salmore and Salmore

#### New Jersey Legislature

Read: Chapter 6 and 9 Salmore and Salmore

#### Gender and Representation lecture (lecture)

Read: Center for American Women and Politics website on women serving in government in New Jersey ([www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu))

#### New Jersey Governor

Brief profile of current Governor

Read: Chapter 8 and 10 in Salmore and Salmore

Standing On Principle by James J. Florio

"A New Governor Faces His Biggest Test." The New York Times. June 20, 2019. Page A18.

"Late Deal in New Jersey Averts Shutdown." The New York Times. July 1, 2018. Page 26.

"New Governor Tilts New Jersey Hard to the Left." The New York Times. May 9, 2018. Pages A1 and A20.

"New Jersey Prosecutors Pause Marijuana Cases." The New York Times. July 25, 2018. Page A18.

#### **In Class Essay on James Florio**

#### New Jersey's Legal System

Read: Chapter 11 in Salmore and Salmore

Local Government Read: Salmore and Salmore Chapter 12

Documentary about Newark, NJ, with Dr. Clement Price, Rutgers/Newark History Department

#### Voting and Political Participation

Read: Salmore and Salmore Chapter 4

#### New Jersey Election Procedures (lecture)

#### Political Parties in New Jersey

Read: Chapter 5 in Salmore and Salmore

#### Public Opinion in New Jersey

Read: Salmore and Salmore Chapter

Recent Monmouth, Quinnipiac, and Eagleton Polls about New Jersey