

Winter Quarter 2009

Instructor:

David E Janssen PhD

USP 116 CA Local Government Finance and Administration

Class: Monday 5:00-7:40pm, SSB 102

Office Hours: Monday 4:00-5:00pm, SSB 342

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California Local Government:
Finance and Administration

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This course surveys public finance and administration. It focuses upon California local government-cities, counties and special districts- and also examines state and federal relationships. Topics will include state-local government structures and interfaces; local government conflicts; policy responsibilities and administrative organization; revenues and expenditures; and the future of counties as a political institution.

This course will focus both on the philosophical underpinnings of government in California as well its the practical application to local government. If as Tip O’Niell said, “All politics is local”, what does this say about the dysfunctional relationship that exists in California?

The relationship between the state and its local partners has become increasingly more complex and difficult since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978. This relationship will be examined in detail throughout the entire course curriculum.

Students will prepare five short writing assignments and participate in a group project and presentation. Your course grade is based upon the writing assignments (50%); group project and presentation (30%); and class participation (20%).

II. REQUIRED READINGS

Ken DeBow/John C. Syer *Power and Politics in California.*

Selected reading materials will be provided to the class, available on the web or emailed to students.

III. COURSE TOPICS

January 5	Course Introduction
January 12	City Government
<i>January 19</i>	<i>MLK Holiday</i>
January 26	County Government
February 2	Local Government Budget & Finance
February 9	Local Government Administration (LA County)
<i>February 16</i>	<i>Presidents Day Holiday</i>
February 23	State-Local Relationship
March 2	Special Districts
March 9	Is there a future for Local Government in California?
March 16	Final Project Presentations

Additional Readings for March 9th session on future.

Making Government Make Sense. Feb. 1, 1993. California
Legislative Analyst. Online @ www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/search.aspx

California Constitution Revision Commission. 1996. Online

The Speaker's Commission on State & Local Government Finance.
March 2000, Online.