PSI 123 - 01
State and Local Government
Spring 2020

Class Time and Location: Monday & Wednesday 11:00 - 12:15
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 – 12:00, Monday - Thursday 1:00 – 3:30
Friday 9:00 – 12:00
Office Phone: 479-394-7622, ext. 1332.
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Prerequisite: None
Resources: Required text – *Governing States and Localities,* author: Smith & Greenblatt edition 4, copyright 2014, Sage Publishing Company, ISBN: 978-1-4522-2633-0

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the organization, structure, functions, and administration of state and local governments.

Program Outcomes:
- Students will increase competencies in writing, reading, speaking, and listening.
- Students will increase their understanding of the human condition, as well as the culture and society of both the nation and the world in which they live.
- Students will apply technological and research skills to identify, locate, and process information.
- Students will be prepared to compete academically upon transfer to a four-year institution.

Rationale: This course provides the means by which students will accomplish the program outcomes outlined in the college catalogue as evidenced by the listed course objectives. This course will allow the student to gain knowledge and skills that will help them in future college endeavors and will make the student a better-informed citizen.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will:
- Identify how state and local governments function.
- Demonstrate knowledge of independent research
  - Components:
    - Proper sources
    - Proper grammar
- Share and defend his or her stance on an issue by participating in a group debate project.
  - Components:
    - Collaboration skills
    - Scholarly research
    - Logical arguments

Course Schedule:
January 13 – Introduction
January 15 – Introduction of Government (Ch. 1)
January 20 - History of Government (Ch. 1)
January 22 – History of US Government (Ch. 2)
January 27 - Federalism (Ch. 2)
January 29 - State Constitutions (Ch. 3)
February 3 – State Constitution and Review for test
February 5 - Test 1
February 10 – State ballot issues
February 12 - Amendments to state constitutions
February 17 – No Class – Winter Break
February 19 - State Legislatures (Ch. 7)
February 24 - Branches of Government Executive Branch (Ch.8)
February 26 - Branches of Government Executive Branch (Ch.8)
March 2 – Branches Government Courts (Ch.9)
March 4 - Branches Government Courts (Ch.9) & Review for test
March 11 – Test 2
March 16 – Project
March 18 – Political Attitude and participation (Ch. 5)
March 23 - 27 No Classes – Spring Break
March 30 – Finances (Ch. 4)
April 1 – Bureaucracy (Ch. 10)
April 6 - Local Government (Ch. 11)
April 8 – Test 3
April 13 - Project
April 15 – Education (Ch. 13)
April 20 - Crime and Punishment (Ch. 14)
April 22 – Crime and Punishment (Ch. 14)
April 27 - Health & Welfare (Ch. 15)
April 29 – Project & Paper due
Week of May 4 – Final

This syllabus is a work in progress. The dates, number of tests, and other items may change throughout the semester.

Course Conduct:
The majority of this class will be lecture oriented. However, there will be group activities, oral presentations and other "hands on" activities throughout the semester. You are encouraged to form study groups to help in this class. You may also seek assistance from Student Support for help understanding the material or writing the paper. If you are having extreme difficulty, please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

Credit Hour Calculator: In a typical semester, for every course credit hour, you should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming

quizzes/exams, research, writing papers, working with your team, and other activities that enhance learning. For a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course. This includes the time spent in class.

Course Requirements/Evaluation:
Grades will be based on four tests, the final exam, a short research papers, and team project. Grades are based on the standard grading scale: 90-100 (A), 80 – 89 (B), 70 – 79 (C), 60 – 69 (D), below 59 (F).

Tests: Tests will be multiple choice and true/false, short answer and possible essay.

Projects and/or papers: You will be assigned various projects throughout the semester. These projects will include research papers and essays (which will require documentation), outside readings, and debates.

Class Procedures/Student Requirements:
The classroom should be a learning environment, so, out of respect for others, please put your cell phone on silent. If you need to take a call, please step outside the classroom. No texting, playing games, or using social media during class. Cell phones should only be used for legitimate classroom activities. Also, do not take any pictures or videos in class without permission.

Attendance is expected. Make-up tests and scheduled presentations will only be rescheduled if absence is reported and excused beforehand. Make-up tests may be all essay. Papers and projects are expected on the date they are due (papers may be turned in ahead of time). Late papers will not be accepted unless there is an emergency, or you have cleared it with me beforehand. The same applies to other projects and assignments.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism of papers and cheating on exams. Academic dishonesty will result in an F on the work in question.

Disability Policy: It is the policy of UA Rich Mountain to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to state and federal law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Office, 394-7622 ext.1400.

Arkansas Clean Air Act: In compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air Act, UA Rich Mountain is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Students and guests are to refrain from the use of all tobacco products while on campus.

Student Misconduct: Students committing misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanction(s) and or restrictions. Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to endangerment, harassment, disruption, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, illegal drugs and/or alcohol, fire or safety issues, gambling, property violations, computer violations or other violations as listed in detail in the college catalog.

UA Rich Mountain Mission: UA Rich Mountain exists to provide all residents of the Ouachita Mountain Region with exemplary educational and enrichment opportunities to improve the quality of life and standard of living.

See Something … Hear Something … Say Something
Suspicious behavior should be reported to the Deputy Sheriff on campus at (479)394-6811. The Deputy Sheriff's office is located on the Mena campus in the Spencer Building across from the library.

Crime statistics and information can be located on our webpage at:
http://www.uarichmountain.edu/at-a-glance/disclosures