# PSI 123 - 01
# State and Local Government
Spring 2021

Class Time and Location: Monday & Wednesday 9:30 – 10:45
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Monday –Thursday, 11:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 3:00
Friday 9:00 – 12:00
Office Phone: 479-394-7622, ext. 1332.
Email: plunsford@uarichmountain.edu

**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 their:
- writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills.
- understanding of different cultures and societies across the globe and how both have changed over time.
- technological and research skills.

**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 11 – Introduction
January 13 – Introduction of Government (Ch. 1)
January 18 - History of Government (Ch. 1)
January 20 – History of US Government (Ch. 2)
January 25 - Federalism (Ch. 2)
January 27 – History of Federalism (Ch 2)
February 1 –Review for test
February 3 - Test 1
February 8 – State Constitutions (Ch, 3)
February 10 - Amendments to state constitutions - State ballot issues
February 15 – No Class – Winter Break
February 17 - Branches of Government legislative Branch & State Legislatures (Ch. 7)
February 22 - State Legislatures (Ch. 7)
February 24 - Branches of Government Executive Branch (Ch.8)
March 1 – Branches Government Courts (Ch.9)
March 3 - Branches Government Courts (Ch.9) & Review for test
March 8 – Test 2
March 10 – Project
March 15 – Political Attitude and participation (Ch. 5)
March 17 - Finances (Ch. 4)
March 22 - 26 No Classes – Spring Break
March 29 - Bureaucracy (Ch. 10)
March 31 - Local Government (Ch. 11)
April 5 - Local Government (Ch. 11)
April 7 – Test 3
April 12 - Project
April 14 – Education (Ch. 13)
April 19 - Crime and Punishment (Ch. 14)
April 21 – Crime and Punishment (Ch. 14)
April 26 - Health & Welfare (Ch. 15)
April 28 – Project & Paper due
Week of May 3 – 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:** The majority of your grade will come from your test scores. Tests will be multiple choice and true/false.

**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. The paper and other assignments are expected on the date they are due (they may be turned in ahead of time). Late papers will be accepted but not for full credit, 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. Plagiarism also includes using paraphrasing tools and anti-plagiarism generators. Academic dishonesty will result in an F on the work in question. Recording a class or reposting, copying, or distributing material found on the Student Portal, Moodle, or any class materials is expressly forbidden unless the instructor has given written permission. Students who violate Academic Integrity will face disciplinary sanctions that could result in suspension or expulsion from the college.

**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 provides transformative education to all learners.

**Covid 19 Pandemic Changes:**

**Face Mask Policy:** As per the Executive Order from the governor of Arkansas, all students are required to wear a proper face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth while on campus and in class. Masks with holes or masks that do not completely cover nose and mouth are not acceptable. Any student that does not have a proper mask will leave class and be referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

**Food and Drink:** Food and drinks, including water are not allowed in the classroom at any time.

**Seating Chart:** Sit in the same seat each time you come to class. This helps with the state-required contact tracing in the event you test positive for COVID-19.

**Social Distance:** Maintain the required 6-feet for optimal social distancing practices.

**Cleaning:** Clean your workstation each day upon entry. Disinfecting wipes will be provided.

*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