

State & Local Government – Spring 2023
PS 2130, Section 102
TR 9:00a.m. – 9:50a.m.
Room: HSH 102

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. William D. Hicks
Office: Anne Belk Hall Room 351E
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Office Hours: 10:00-11:00, MWF
Make appointment here: [Google Calendar](#)
Meet here: [Zoom Link](#)

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course introduces students to the politics, institutions, and policy processes of sub-national governments in the United States. Beyond simply levying taxes, these governments play pivotal policy roles in health care, education, corrections, economic development, environmental protection, and welfare, to name a few. State and local governments are a permanent fixture in the lives of all people living in the United States, and their programmatic and fiscal roles have increased substantially relative to that of the federal government over the past 25 years. For this reason alone, it is useful for students to gain an intimate understanding of state and local government.

However, state and local governments are also an important venue for students to learn something about politics and policymaking that applies to governments in other places and times. By comparing the similarities and differences between state and local governments, we are better able to understand how (and if) citizens' attitudes shape the policies and political institutions that governments adopt. At the same time, we are also better able to understand how (and if) different policies and political institutions shape citizens' attitudes. This course, therefore, also teaches students how political scientists uncover and explain general principles and patterns of politics and government.

Required Texts and Materials

Smith, Kevin B. and Alan Greenblatt. 2021. Governing States and Localities. 8th Edition. Sage/CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1071839829

Exams & Graded Activities

Exams: 75% of each student's grade is based on his or her performance on three non-cumulative exams. These exams are comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions.

AsU Learn Quizzes: This course will include roughly 1 quiz per week about the class lectures. These quizzes will be short answer and consist of no more than a handful of short questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage students to keep up with the class. The questions are not designed to be difficult, but rather should be very easy for students who have engaged the reading. All quizzes will be accessible on AsU Learn, and are due by the end of the week.

Course Grades

<i>Grading Scale</i>			<i>Grade Requirements</i>		
A	94-100	C	74-76	Exam 1	25%
A-	90-93	C-	70-73	Exam 2	25%
B+	87-89	D+	67-69	Exam 3	25%
B	84-86	D	64-66	Quizzes	25%
B-	80-83	D-	60-63		
C+	77-79	F	0-59		

Absence Policies

Given the prevalence of Covid-19 in our broader community, it is irresponsible to require attendance. Many of you may encounter situations where attending class puts others at risk. I ask seriously if any of you have any symptoms related to Covid-19 or more generally of a cold or flu, e.g., fever, cough, sneezing, fatigue, chest tightness, etc., or you have been in close contact with someone who has, please **do not attend**. Get in touch with me as soon as you can, and I will work with you to make up the material you missed.

If you miss a scheduled exam, you have 24 hours after the start of the exam to provide me with documentation excusing the absence (if you would like to schedule a makeup). Failure to do this within 24 hours will result in a 0 for the exam.

COVID-19 Statement

We should all do our best to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and work to protect each other. If you feel sick, stay home.

- If you have recently been exposed to COVID-19, I strongly encourage you to follow the [CDC's quarantine and isolation guidelines](#) , which include the following central ideas among others:
 - “Everyone who has presumed or confirmed COVID-19 should stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days” (**day 0 is the first day of symptoms, not day 1**).
 - “[Everyone who has presumed or confirmed COVID-19] should wear a mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days”
- The symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please call Student Health Service at **828-262-3100** or AppHealthCare at **828-264-4995**.
 - Here is a list of testing locations in [Watauga County](#)
- If you feel sick, **stay home**

Student Conduct

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site:

www.studentconduct.appstate.edu.

Statement on Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at “providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers” as well as “maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students.” Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen-hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Disability Support Services

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Religious Observances Policy

Faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class. Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student’s final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Course Schedule

January 18

Course Introduction

January 20

Course Introduction: Why States?

January 23

Federalism: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 2

January 25

Federalism: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 2

January 27

Federalism: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 2

January 30

Elections: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 1

Elections: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 3

Elections: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 6

Direct Democracy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 8

Direct Democracy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 10

Direct Democracy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 5

February 13

Political Parties: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6

February 15

Political Parties: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6

February 17

Political Parties: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6

February 20

Review & Catchup

February 22

Exam 1

February 24

Legislatures: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 7

February 27

Legislatures: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 7

March 1

Legislatures: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 7

March 3

Governors: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 8

March 6

Governors: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 8

March 8

Governors: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 8

March 10

Courts: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 9

March 13

NO CLASS

March 15

NO CLASS

March 17

NO CLASS

March 20

Courts: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 9

March 22

Courts: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 9

March 24

Review & Catchup

March 27

Exam 2

March 29

Groups: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6, review

March 31

Groups: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6, review

April 3

Groups: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 6, review

April 5

Fiscal Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 4

April 7

NO CLASS

April 10

NO CLASS

April 12

Fiscal Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 4

April 14

Fiscal Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 4

April 17

Crime & Punishment: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 14

April 19

Crime & Punishment: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 14

April 21

Crime & Punishment: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 14

April 24

Health & Welfare Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 15

April 26

Health & Welfare Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 15

April 28

Health & Welfare Policy: Smith & Greenblatt., Ch. 15

May 1

SPECIAL TOPIC, Catch-up, Review

May 3

SPECIAL TOPIC, Catch-up, Review

May 8

Final Exam, 8:00a.m.