

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

POLS 2853 State and Local Government

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description:

Study of organizations and functions of state and local governments and political parties in the United States, intergovernmental relations, administrations, and adjudication. (ACTS: PLSC 2103).

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution of the modern state constitution.
2. Discuss theories of representation.
3. Document the organizational structure of state and local government.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the motivations and activities of state and local politicians.
5. Analyze the process of local law-making and administration

B. University Learning Outcomes:

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will develop the ability to analyze complex ideas by the study of the theories of representation, and the separation of powers between the national, state, and local governments.

Communication Skills:

Students will develop enhanced communication skills through essays, quizzes and other assignments.

Ethical Decision Making:

Students will become acquainted with and learn to apply some of the basic normative ethical theories in dealing with moral problems.

Global and Cultural Perspectives:

Students will study important issues relating to the international role of state governments in economic matters in the 21st century.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The historical and structural evolution of state constitutions
- B. Elections and political parties
- C. Goals and strategies of state and local political leaders
- D. The role of local administrative offices
- E. Lawmaking at the state and local level
- F. The relationship of state governors and legislatures
- G. Policy issues and conflict with the national government