



# COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

## SECTION 1 - To be completed by the institution submitting course for approval

Name of institution Jacksonville State UniversityCourse prefix & number PSC 102 Course title Introduction to State and Local GovernmentSemester credit hours 3 Does course have a laboratory? ☐ Yes ☒ No Lab contact hours \_\_\_\_\_

In what general academic area is this course being offered at your institution? (Select one of the following)

☐ Written Composition
 ☐ Humanities & Fine Arts
 ☐ Math & Science
 ☒ Social Science
 ☐ Other Area \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

Course description (including prerequisites) as it appears in official catalog.

- ☒ Initial submission
- ☐ Re-submission
- ☐ Course title/number change
- ☐ Course content change

A study of the organization, functions, and powers of state, county, and municipal governments.

NOTE: YOU MUST ALSO ATTACH OR PROVIDE A HARD COPY OF A "REPRESENTATIVE COURSE SYLLABUS TO THIS FORM.

Contact information of person submitting this proposal (name position, mailing address, telephone number and email address required)

Dr. Janet L. Bavonese, Assistant Vice Provost for Advising, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road No., Jacksonville AL 36265. 256-782-8443. jlvonese@jsu.edu

Signature of person submitting this proposal:

Date 1/19/23

## SECTION 2 - To be completed by the AGSC/STARS Office and/or Area Academic Committee Chair

Reviewed and voted on by the following committee:

☐ AREA I&II
 ☐ AREA III
 ☒ AREA IV

Committee recommendation:

☒ Recommended for approval
 ☐ Not Recommended for approval

Selected area of approval:

If NOT recommended, please give explanation:

- ☐ Area I - Written Composition
- ☐ Area II - Humanities & Fine Arts
- ☐ Area III - Math & Science
- ☒ Area IV - History & Social Science

21 ☒ - yes    0 - NO - ☒ Didn't vote

Signature of Committee Chair (or Executive Director):

Date 7-1-23

## SECTION 3 - To be completed by the AGSC Chair or Executive Director

AGSC APPROVAL:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Not Approved
- ☐ Tabled -- If tabled provide reasoning: \_\_\_\_\_

AGSC APPROVAL STAMP

AGSC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For more information visit... [www.alabamatransfers.com](http://www.alabamatransfers.com)

AFTER SECTION 1 (ABOVE) IS COMPLETE, MAIL FORM AND COURSE SYLLABUS TO:



ALABAMA TRANSFERS  
1101 SOUTH BRUNDIDGE ST.  
ELC BUILDING - SUITE 107F  
TROY, AL 36081

THE ALABAMA TRANSFERS OFFICE STAFF WILL SEND OUT THE PROPOSAL TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE AND, IF RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL, WILL THEN BRING THE COURSE BEFORE THE AGSC FOR A FINAL VOTE.

Tim Barnett, Ph.D.  
Dept. of Political Science  
Jacksonville State University  
Office phone: 256-782-5653  
Email: tbarnett@jsu.edu  
Office: 205E Brewer

Fall semester, 2022  
PSC 102 meets M/W/F, 10-11 am  
Student hours: M/W, 2:00-4:30 pm  
T/Th. 4:00-6:00 pm, virtual, online  
Student hours: Tues., 10-11 am  
Classroom: 231 Brewer Hall

## State and Local Government

*Aiming at an Enjoyable Learning Experience*

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### *Text:*

Dye, Thomas R. And Susan A. MacManus. 2015. *Politics in States and Communities*, 15th ed. Boston: Pearson.

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**Course Description.** This is an exciting course that produces a considerable learning experience for attentive students. Only one text is required for purchase. Supplemental readings are available online free of charge. The instructor will provide informational handouts from time to time. The course begins with an overview of democracy and constitutionalism in the states. It then progresses to the history of federalism, the nature of electoral campaigns and political participation in state politics, and the evolution of state-level parties as franchises of the two major national parties. Thereafter, the course explores institutional actors in the states-legislators, governors, bureaucrats and judges. Finally, the course addresses the challenges of governing in America's rural towns, small cities and spreading metropolitan areas. These discussions include the politics of land use, the politics of environmentalism, and the politics of taxation and finance. *Importantly, a national context is provided for observations.*

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### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

1. Students will be able to discuss and competently write about state and local politics and administration.
2. Students will demonstrate normative social science reasoning skills as applied to the challenges that face state and local government in America today, especially in fiscal management and budgetary politics.
3. Students will show ability to generate literature-relevant hypotheses about the evolution and development of state and local government institutions, administrative norms, intergovernmental relations, and electoral participation at the state and local level.
4. Students will have knowledge of widely recognized sub-topics of state and local government such as

constitutionalism in the states, parties and campaigns in the states, the typical work and responsibilities of state legislators and governors, and state bureaucratic administration.

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#### Course information

\* *"The students in this course may be grouped in Canvas with students enrolled in another section or sections of this same course. Students may see the names, email addresses, discussion forum postings, and contributions to group activities of all students enrolled in their section of the course as well as those of students enrolled in other sections within Canvas during the current semester. Some assignments may require online communication, interaction, and collaboration with students across sections."*

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#### Course management.

1. The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus and the order or nature of the readings and assignments as he sees fit, substituting some items for others. Provided, the professor will not increase the amount of work (in his judgment) or the number of tests.
2. It is important that students study both the assigned readings AND the professor's comments on those readings. The professor may provide his comments in lecture, in the form of handouts, or electronically, either through Canvas or through email attachments.

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#### SEGMENT 1                      Wed., Aug. 24 through Fri., Sept. 23

Read chapters 1-4 in our text, "Politics in State and Communities." Study the material closely for your first exam. Identify key vocabulary; understand the facts, claims and explanations as provided; examine all charts, figures and graphical data; review the chapter highlights.

Review all lecture notes, handouts and online articles assigned by your professor. Be prepared for classroom interaction with your instructor and other students. Student involvement will be reflected in the semester participation score.

Read the Wikipedia article on the state of Alabama. Be prepared to discuss it with your instructor and other students. Click on the link to the [Alabama Legislature](#) (under the sub-header Politics); include this in your reading as well. *This reading assignment should be complete one week before our first exam.*

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>TOPICS</i>
Chapter 1	Politics in States and communities

\* *Insight report no. 1. Controversy on Washington DC statehood.*

- Chapter 2 Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States
- \* Discussion of the professor's associated commentary on the EEOC States, Communities, and American Federalism
- Chapter 3
- \* *Insight report no. 2.* False flag politics and related concepts
- Friday, Sept. 23*

*Exam 1*

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**SEGMENT 2                      Sept.'24 through Oct. 14**

- Chapter 4 Participation in State Politics
- \* *Insight report no. 3* Alternatives to polarization and related concepts
- Chapter 5 Patties and Campaigns in the States
- Chapter 6 Legislators in State Politics
- Chapter 7 Governors in State Politics

Skim the Wikipedia articles on each of Alabama's congressional districts, starting with District 1. There are seven districts. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama's\\_1st\\_congressional\\_district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama's_1st_congressional_district)

*Exam 2                      Friday, October 14                      Note: Midterm informational grades submitted Oct. 13.*

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**SEGMENT 3                      Oct. 15 through Nov. 11**

- Chapter 8 Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities
- \* *Insight report no. 4* Bll reaucratic diseases and related concepts
- Chapter 9 Courts, Crime, and Correctional Policy
- Chapter 10 Governing in America's Communities

*Exam 3                      Friday, Nov. 11*



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**SEGMENT 4**                      **Nov. 12 through Dec. 6** (interrupted by Thanksgiving Break)

Chapter 16      The Politics of Education

\*                      *Insight report no. 5* Machiavellianism and the politics of education

Chapter 11      Participation in Community Politics

Chapter 12      Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis

Chapter 13      Community Power, Land Use and the Environment

*Exam 4*                      *Friday, Dec. 2 (No comprehensive final exam)*

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**Grade Plan**

Exam 1                                      100 points (multiple choice and true/false; Scantron)

Exam 2                                      100 points (m/c and t/f, Scantron required)

Exam 3                                      100 points (m/c and t/f; Scantron)

Exam 4                                      100 points (m/c and t/f; Scantron)

Written insight reports ( 5 x 30)                      150 points

Classroom participation and attendance                      50 points

\*\*4 free absences; 2 free late arrivals (up to 15 minutes, then counted as absent). 10 points deducted from participation score for each extra absence; 10 absences = course failure. \*\*Email the instructor regarding major illness requiring absence under a doctor's care for no more than two sequential class sessions.

Total points: 600 (A = 90% of 600 or 540)

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**Other Information**

**Plagiarism.** Any form of plagiarism is forbidden. (Webster's Lexicon Dictionary defines plagiarism as "The appropriating and putting forth as one's own *the ideas, language, or designs* of another" (*italics mine*). Plagiarism may include quoting or paraphrasing material without citing the source, or the use of relatively unique ideas without attribution to the author. That said, there is no need to provide attribution in matters of common knowledge or in classroom discussions where those present understand the sources of the information at hand.

**Academic Honesty.** Assignments in this class must be completed by the student without outside help. Students may not confer with any persons during exams. Partial exceptions may be made in cases of documented disability or where a JSU tutoring service provides limited assistance. (Limited assistance

does NOT include having someone write or plan a paper for you, edit it, or tell you what to type.) Please contact the instructor at the start of the semester if you will use any assistance. The instructor reserves the right to require an appropriate explanation of ideas, arguments, and vocabulary for any paper m answer. If a student fails the defense, the paper or assignment grade will be a zero.

**Exams and assignments.** Students must complete work within the time frame specified by the instructor. In the case of medical emergency or death in the family, please contact the instructor without delay. Documentation of the circumstance will be required by fax or mail at the professor's option. Failure to follow these guidelines will likely result in the denial of a make-up option.

**Electronic devices** may be used in the classroom to support discussion activities (as approved by the professor) and to monitor special situations at home or at work. Recreational use of electronic devices (surfing, texting friends, playing games) is not allowed during lecture, discussion, films or panels.

**Instructor Info.** M.P.A. Boise State University; Ph.D. (Political Science) University of Kansas. Prior full-time teaching: University of Northern Iowa. University of North Texas. Main fields: American Government; Public Policy; Political Economy; Culture and Constitutional Viability.

#### **Disability Accommodations Statement.**

Any individual who qualifies for reasonable accommodations under The Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should contact the Instructor immediately. The University policy does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

**Policy Summary.** All policies not mentioned herein will conform to the student handbook, faculty handbook, JSU website, and other stated / published policies of the university. *Note: if fill for more than one class, email your instructor. Do NOT come to class with a fever, uncontrolled cough or contagious sickness.*

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#### **Articles on State and Local Government for possible assignment**

*These 18 readings for practitioners can be accessed by Googling the article title and journal, or entering the associated URL. Up to eight readings could be assigned at the instructor's discretion, with documentation required, if the instructor perceives a shortfall of learning from the main text.*

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1. A Government Adrift. Josh Goodman. *Governing*. August, 2008.  
South Carolina still runs on its 1895 Constitution. Guess what? It doesn't work.  
<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/A-Government-Adrift.html>
2. An Issue of Sovereignty. Josh Lehmer. *State Legislatures*. February, 2008.



The independence of Native American nations, an idea long undermined by dependency and deprivation, is again a reality.

<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/tribal/sl-magazine-an-issue-of-sovereignty.aspx>

3. The Corruption Problem. Alan Greenblatt. *Governing*. June, 2008.

Is graft getting worse or are prosecutors out of control?

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/The-Corruption-Puzzle.html>

4. Cookie-Jar Clampdown. Rob Gurwitt. *Governing*. February, 2007.

Tougher lobby laws are being discussed all over the country. A few states have enacted them. Whether they work remains to be seen.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/politics/Cookie-Jar-Clampdown.html>

5. Blueburbs. Alan Greenblatt. *Governing*. September, 2008.

Why Republicans are losing their hold on suburban America.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/politics/Blueburbs.html>

6. Death and Life in the Pressroom. Rob Gurwitt. *Governing*. December, 2008.

Newspapers have lost interest in covering legislatures. Can Web sites replace them?

<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/Death-and-Life-in.html>

7. The Ordeal of David Paterson. Rob Gurwitt. *Governing*. February 2003.

New York's Governor thinks his state needs drastic change. The political establishment will be hard to convince.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/politics/The-Ordeal-of-David.html>

8. The Second Best Job in the State. Josh Goodman. *Governing*. March, 2009.

Attorney generals are on a roll these days. Some are becoming governors. Some are overshadowing their governors.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/The-Second-Best-Job.html>

9. Radical Renewal. Josh Goodman. *Governing*. February, 2009.

Minneapolis Mayor, R.T. Rybak, loves economic development. He just wants to do it his way.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/economic-dev/Radical-Renewal.html>

10. Second Spin. Will Wilson. *Governing*. December, 2008.

Who will replace all those retiring baby boomers? How about more boomers?

<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/Second-Spin.html>

11. A Tower of Tiers. Jonathan Walters. *Governing*. April, 2008

Pensions are getting less generous for a new generation of state and local government workers. Will they

tolerate equal work for unequal benefits?

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-workforce/pensions/A-Tower-of-Tiers.html>

12. Attempted Merger. Jonathan Walters. *Governing*. October, 2008.

States are pushing localities to consolidate---and localities are pushing back.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/Attempted-Merger.html>

13. A Grim Forecast. Edward Smith. *State Legislatures*. February, 2009.

The fiscal crisis slamming states won't be letting up soon.

<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/budget/state-legislatures-magazine-a-grim-forecast.aspx>

14. A Break in the Levy. Penelope Lemov. *Governing*. January, 2009.

Property tax has kept localities solvent in many a recession. It won't happen this time.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/A-Break-in-the.html>

15. See-through Government. Ellen Perlman. *Governing*. April 2009.

When it comes to spending taxpayer dollars, how much transparency is enough?

<http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/See-Thru-Government.html>

16. Strong States, Strong Nation. William T. Pound. *State Legislatures*. July/Aug., 2006.

States play a powerful role in making our nation strong.

<http://www.ncsl.org/magazine/sl-mag-strong-states-strong-nation.aspx>

17. Mayor in the Middle. Rob Gurwitt. *Governing*. January, 2007.

LA's mayor grew up in politics as a left-wing activist. Now, he's governing from the center. He hasn't much choice.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/economic-dev/Mayor-in-the-Middle.html>

18. Smart Decline. Christopher Swope. *Governing*. November, 2006.

In 40 years, Youngstown has lost more than half its population. Those people aren't coming back. But shrinking doesn't have to mean dying.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/economic-dev/Smart-Decline.html>

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### Useful Books on State and Local Government

Bowman, Ann O'M. and Richard Kearney. 2010. *State and Local Government*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Wadsworth Publishing. (A quality, comprehensive introductory text.)

Cannon, Lou. 2005. *Governor Reagan: His Rise to Power*. Public Affairs. (Recounts Reagan's first two terms as Governor of California. Highlights his political and administrative strategies.)

Clark, Cal and Don-Terry Veal. 2010. *Public Opinion in Alabama: Looking Beyond the Stereotypes*. Lexington

## Books.

Conlan, Timothy J. And Paul L. Posner, eds. 2008. *Intergovernmental Management for the Twenty-First Century*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.

Daniels, Thomas L., et al. 2007. *Small Town Planning Handbook*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. American Planning Association.

Garvin, Alexander. 2002. *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*. New York: McGraw-Hill Professional. (A leading text on Urban Planning.)

Granholtz, Jennifer and Dan Mulhern. 2011. *A Governor's Story: The Fight for Jobs and America's Economic Future*. Public Affairs. (Highlights Granholtz's tenure as Governor of Michigan.)

Hickok, Eugene W. 2007. *Why States? The Challenge of Federalism*. Heritage Books. (A political science professor revisits the philosophy of the American Founders on Federalism in this short book)

Judd, Dennis R. And Todd Swanstrom. 2011. *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Kantor, Paul P. And Dennis R. Judd, eds. 2009. *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Keating, Raymond. 2000. *US. by the Numbers: Figuring What's Left, Right, and Wrong with America State by State*. Capital Books. (Abounds with graphs, figures and statistical findings.)

Macgregor Burns, James, J.W. Peltason, et al., eds. 2011. *State and Local Politics: Government by the People*, 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice-Hall. (A major text, similar to the one used in our class.)

Martin, David L. 1994. *Alabama's State and Local Governments*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press. (Outdated but useful regarding Alabama's past.)

Mossberger, Karen. 2012. *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press. (An authoritative reference book that covers the major themes of urban governance.)

Nugent, John D. 2009. *Safeguarding Federalism: How States Protect Their Interests in National Policymaking*. University of Oklahoma Press.

Pelissero, John P., ed. 2003. *Cities, Politics, and Policy: A Comparative Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Smith, Kevin B., ed. 2011. *State and Local Government, 2010-2011 Edition*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. (Provides a cross-section of readings from state and local government journals.)

Thomson, Bailey, ed. 2002. *A Century of Controversy: Constitutional Reform in Alabama*. Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press.

Wallace, Sally, ed. 2010. *State and Local Fiscal Policy: Thinking Outside the Box?* Edward Elgar Publishing.

Webb, Samuel L. and Margaret E. Armbrister, ed. 2001. *Alabama Governors: A Political History of the State*. Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press.

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