



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

*Department of Political Science, International Affairs, and Public
Administration*

PSCI 3710 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PURPOSE: Political Science 3710 details the structures and functions of fifty state governments and local governments in the United States and the role of these governments in the American federal system. In addition, there will be particular references made to the politics and governments in Tennessee.

REQUIRED TEXTS: 1) *State and Local Government*. Latest Edition. Written by Ann O' M. Bowman and Richard C. Kearney. Cengage Learning.
2) *State and Local Government: Annual Editions*. Sixteenth Edition. This reader is edited by Bruce Stinebrickner. Dushkin/McGraw Publishers. (Guilford, Connecticut), 2014.

RECOMMENDED TEXT: 1) William Lyons, John M. Scheb II, Billy Stair, and Joseph G. Jarret. *Government and Politics in Tennessee*. 2017. The University of Tennessee Press: Knoxville, Tennessee.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Classes will be lecture-oriented, except on those occasions in which discussions are in order. In these situations, oral participation is encouraged. There will also be some in-class group discussions based upon a scenario in state and local government politics. I also hope to be able to bring in a few guest lecturers who are practitioners in state and local government. On January 28, I will be participating in a panel discussion on campus with a prominent historian and a staffer from the Obama administration. Students are encouraged to attend the event. There will be some discussion of it in the next class period. Also, there will be a couple of times during the semester where I will be out of town. I will give you an advance mention of when these times will be. There will be three exams which account for 65% of your grade. Two of the three exams will be primarily multiple-choice and given in class. Another exam will be a take-home one based on essay questions. An exam cannot be made unless you notify me *before the exam*. A class roll will be taken, and if a student misses more than three times before an exam is given, he/she will not be able to take it. There will be an oral presentation in class on a section in the Stinebrickner reader and a written one to be turned in at the end of the semester. These will be assigned in class and will account for 25% of the grade. These presentations will be made as they coincide with the lecture material. The written portions of this project will be done on an individual basis. The report will be type-written, 8-10 pages double-spaced, and will include any bibliographic citations when necessary. More specifics about the paper will be given later in the semester. Class participation will account for the final 10% of the grade.

GRADING SCHEME: 93-100= A, 90-92=A-
88-89=B+, 83-87=B, 80-82=B-
78-79=C+, 73-77=C, 70-72=C-
68-69=D+, 60-67=D
0-59=F

READING ASSIGNMENTS: These are listed under material covered each test. Also, I will show a few videos and have a couple of speakers associated with state and local politics that are

not listed below. I will give students a week's advance notice before your presentation.

Test #1 – Weeks 1 – 5

Chapters 1-5 and 12 from Bowman and Kearney
Chapter 8 from Lyons, Scheb et al.
Sections 1-3 in Stinebrickner
Presentations on Sections 2 and 3 in Stinebrickner

Test #2 – Weeks 6-9

Chapters 6-11 from Bowman and Kearney
Section 4-5 from Stinebrickner
Chapters 3-4 from Lyons, Scheb, et al
Presentation on Sections 4 and five from Stinebrickner

Test #3 – Weeks 10 – 14

Chapters 12-18 from Bowman and Kearney
Sections 6-7 from Stinebrickner
Presentations from 6-7 from Stinebrickner
Chapters 10-12 from Lyons, Scheb, et al

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