



Course Information

Division	Humanities/ Social Sciences
Contact Hours	45
Total Credits	3

Prerequisites POLSC 151

Course Description

This course is a study of state and local government units, including types of organizations, their structures, functions, and activities. Students will explore and evaluate the everyday activities of local government units as well as special problems in local politics and policy development. Consideration is given to intergovernmental relations between the various local levels of government and the federal government.

Course Outcomes

In order to evidence success in this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify/Recognize the basic structures of state and local government units operating within the United States.
2. Identify/Recognize the relationship between state and local government units to each other and to the national government.
3. Identify/Recognize the role of state constitutions in defining state and local government powers.
4. Identify/Recognize the role of political parties in local government.
5. Identify/Recognize and analyze and evaluate examples of local political or community power structures.
6. Identify/Recognize and analyze and evaluate examples of local policymaking such as, but not limited to, education, housing, and transportation.
7. Identify/Recognize and describe how the various roles and functions, executive, legislative, and judicial are carried out at various levels of local government.
8. Identify/Recognize and demonstrate an understanding of the role of fiscal and administrative activities in local policymaking.
9. Demonstrate/Practice in written or verbal form, compare, contrast and evaluate two or more local government units and their organization structures. (Example: compare a city with a Strong-Mayor form of government to a city with a City Manager form of government.)
10. Demonstrate/Practice in written or verbal form, describe a state, city or other local government unit's policy in a major policy area, and critique that policy in regards to local political representation and public opinion.
11. Believe/Feel/Think or decide whether or not a federation is important for the diffusion of power under the U.S. Constitution.
12. Believe/Feel/Think or decide whether or not his/her level of political participation matters to the political process at the local level.