

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-19

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: POLS2020
Course Title: State and Local Government
Prerequisite(s): POLS1000 or permission of instructor
Catalog Description: Study of the structure and operation of state and local government with special attention to the direct impact on the individual citizen.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Provide a general overview of the subfield of State and Local Government.
- B. Provide a broad overview of the underlying theories which form American Federalism.
- C. Increase the students' understanding of state constitutions and their historical evolution.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: Student will be able to:
 - 1. Evaluate how municipalities develop affective policy
 - 2. Understand regional distinctions in government philosophy
 - 3. Think critically about the role of the state in the American political system
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.
 - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
 - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.
 - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
 - Outcome: Acquire and integrate knowledge and construct relationships across disciplines.
 - 2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
 - Outcome: Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of U.S. history and culture as it relates to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and culture.
 - Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.
 - Outcome: Function effectively in multicultural settings.
 - Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.
 - Outcome: Identify and evaluate different theoretical or philosophical perspectives and their relevance to ethical decision-making.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (course outline may provide more detailed information)

- A. The Setting of State and Local Government.
- B. Intergovernmental Relations.
- C. Political Parties and Interest Groups.
- D. Political Participation and Elections.
- E. State and Local Elections.
- F. Governors, Bureaucrats, and Mayors.
- G. Courts, Police, and Corrections.
- H. Financing State and Local Government.
- I. Suburbs, Metropolitan Areas and Rural Communities.
- J. State and Local Policy Making: Conflict and Accommodation.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 - 1. Saffell, David C. and Harry Basehart. *State and Local Government: Politics and Public Policies*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2010. [0-07-286901-1]
- B. Other hand-outs supplied by the instructor.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Lecture
 - 2. Group Discussion/Interactive Activities
 - 3. Multi-media Presentations

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Examinations 50%/66%
 - 2. Written Materials 25%/17%
 - 3. Activities/Attendance 25%/17%
- B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or below
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Textbook Reading and Discussion
- B. Examinations
- C. Written Assignments
- D. Class Attendance/Participation