Outline of Instruction

Division: Social Sciences                      Area: Political Science
Course Number: 221                           Course Name: State and Local Government
Prerequisites: Political Science 151         Corequisite: NONE
Hours Required: Class: 45                  Lab: 0          Credits: 3

Course Description/Purpose
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.

Major Units
- State and Local Government Organizations
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Parties and Politics in Local Government
- Institutional Structures and Functions
- State and Local Public Policymaking

Educational/Course Outcomes
Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive
Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize...
- the basic structures of state and local government units operating within the United States.
- the relationship between state and local government units to each other and to the national government.
- the role of state constitutions in defining state and local government powers.
- the role of political parties in local government.
- and analyze and evaluate examples of local political or community power structures.
- and analyze and evaluate examples of local policymaking such as, but not limited to, education, housing, and transportation.
• and describe how the various roles and functions, executive, legislative, and judicial are carried out at various levels of local government.

• and demonstrate an understanding of the role of fiscal and administrative activities in local policymaking.

Performance

Each student will be expected to 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.)

• 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.

Attitudinal

Each student will be expected to Believe/Feel/Think . . .

• or decide whether or not a federation is important for the diffusion of power under the U.S. Constitution.

• or decide whether or not his/her level of political participation matters to the political process at the local level.

JB/pf—5/04