

Montgomery County Community College
POL 125
American State and Local Government
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the operation of state and local government with analysis of their powers to tax and finance, enforce laws, regulate commerce and business, and promote social and economic welfare.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Analyze issues within the conceptual framework of American state and local government.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Exams Local Government Observation Taxation and Finance Assignment
2. Compare and contrast theory of local government with actual state and local governmental meeting.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Local Governmental Observation Assignment
3. Discuss and analyze major issues facing states and localities in America.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Classroom Discussion Local Governmental Observation Assignment

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Discuss the impact of diversity on community resources and activities involving American state and local government and express an appreciation of their global and multicultural nature.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Classroom Discussion Exams Local Governmental Observation Assignment
5. Analyze the impact of financial purchases and taxes in states, cities and localities on state budgets.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Classroom Discussion Exams Taxation and Finance Assignment
6. Discuss ethical issues contained in American state and local government.	Lecture/Discussion Exams	Classroom Discussion Exams Local Governmental Observation Assignment

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Introduction and Themes
2. Federalism
3. The New Margins: Sustainability
4. Key Actors and the Policy Process in State and Local Governments
5. State Constitutions
6. Legislatures
7. Executives
8. Courts
9. State and Local Bureaucracy and Administration
10. Budgeting and Sustainability
11. Entitlements
12. Traditional and Visible Services: Criminal Justice, Education, Transportation, and Emergency Management

LEARNING MATERIALS: Faculty has the right to change textbook as needed.
State and Local Government: Sustainability in the 21st Century. Christopher A. Simon, Brent S. Steel and Nicholas P. Lovrich. 2011. Oxford University Press.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Carol-Rae Sodano, D. Creciun	Date: 7/1995
Reviewed by: Professor Rhoda McFadden	Date: 9/1998
Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 3/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009
Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 4/1/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 4/8/2013
Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 1/28/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 1/30/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.