Course Description

Introduction to state and local governments in the United States. Acquaints students with the structures and functions of state and local level governments and how political decisions are made at these levels.

Prerequisites

None

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define and explain politics and describe the political approach to states and communities.
2. List and describe the major benefits and drawbacks of federalism.
3. Contrast the changing fortunes of the Republican and Democratic parties in the states.
4. Compare the states on several measures of economic development.
5. Explain how immigration is both a national and sub-national issue.
6. Analyze the differences between liberal and conservative ideology in the states.
7. Identify some of the major policy responsibilities of state and local governments.
8. List and summarize the possible methods of changing state constitutions.
9. Explain the difference between direct and representative democracy and trace the evolution of direct democracy at the state level.
10. Describe how supporters and opponents of initiatives conduct campaigns and how these efforts are viewed by both state legislators and citizens.
12. Explain how money and Supreme Court rulings shifted power to the federal government.
13. Analyze the nature of political participation.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. Unit Summary: Each unit contains an overview, or summary, of the information to be covered.
2. Unit Learning Objectives: Each unit contains learning objectives that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
3. Key Terms: Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
4. **Reading Assignments**: Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook.

5. **Unit Quizzes**: This course contains eight Unit Quizzes, one to be completed at the end of each unit. It is suggested that the quizzes be completed before students complete the Unit Assessments. Quizzes are used to give students quick feedback on their understanding of the unit material and are composed of multiple-choice questions.

6. **Unit Assessments**: Students are required to take unit assessments at the completion of Units I, II, IV, VI, and VII. Assessments are composed of written response questions (short answer, short essay, and essay).

7. **Units III, V, and VIII Projects**: Students are required to submit for grading a Project in Units III, V, and VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below.

8. **Final Exam (proctored)**: Students are to complete a Final Exam in Unit VIII. All final exams are proctored – see below for additional information. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams.

9. **Ask the Professor**: This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room**: This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

## Unit III Project

State Legislative: Using the state in which you live (or another state of your choice), create a PowerPoint slide show explaining the state election and campaign process, party politics, and legislative organization and procedure. Your slide show should consist of 10 to 14 slides and can include, but is not limited to:

- Political party structure/make-up
- Types of primaries
- State party organizations
- State government structure
- Campaign methods of a state candidate/incumbent
- Make-up of your state legislature (i.e., gender, age, profession)
- Apportioning and districting information
- Legislative institutionalization of your state
- Party issues in your state

You may include additional information you feel is relevant, but do not create more than 14 slides. Use your creativity, and organize the material in a logical and understandable manner.

This assignment requires Microsoft PowerPoint or a comparable presentation program. Other programs include Open Office (http://www.openoffice.org) and Google Docs (http://docs.google.com). Google docs is a free program similar to MSOffice and housed on the web. Open Office is a piece of open source software similar to MSOffice but requires a download and installation.

## Unit V Project

A privately owned island off the coast of Florida has been left to you by the eccentric owner who passed away recently. The island is large enough for several small communities to be developed, so you want to start off on the right foot by establishing a local government, a judicial system, and a law enforcement system. The only stipulation is that you cannot be dictator of the island.

In APA format, write a 1000-1500 word paper describing the type of local government you would establish (i.e., county, city, etc.); the form of that government (i.e., township, municipal charter, etc.); and the management system (i.e., commission, mayor, council, etc.). Discuss how leadership positions would be instated (appointment, election, etc.). Discuss the type of law enforcement and judicial system you would put into place, and discuss your rehabilitation system for any criminal offender.

You can mix and match your government, judicial, and law enforcement decisions, but you must fully explain the reasons why you chose the types of systems you do.
Unit VIII Project

Affirmative Action: Using the CSU Online Library and the Criminal Justice Periodicals Index, research an affirmative action case that is not mentioned in the textbook. Summarize the history and the outcome of the case. Discuss the positives and negatives of affirmative action in general and whether you agree or disagree with the specific findings of the case. Your paper should be at least 500 words in length.

APA Guidelines

CSU requires that students use the APA style for papers and projects. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. A document titled “APA Guidelines Summary” is available for you to download from the APA Guide Link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal. It may also be accessed from the Student Resources link on the Course Menu. This document provides links to several internet sites that provide comprehensive information on APA formatting, including examples and sample papers.

CSU Grading Rubric for Papers/Projects

The course papers will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of papers. In addition, all papers will be submitted for electronic evaluation to rule out plagiarism. Course projects will contain project specific grading criteria defined in the project directions. To view the rubric, click the Academic Policies link on the Course Menu, or by accessing the CSU Grading Rubric link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal.

Final Examination Guidelines

Final examinations are to be administered to students by an approved proctor on a date that is mutually convenient. The student is responsible for selecting a qualified proctor that must be approved by the university.

A list of acceptable proctors is provided in the Examination Proctor Policy. To review the complete Examination Proctor Policy including a list of acceptable proctors, proctor responsibilities, proctor approval procedures and the Proctor Agreement Form, go to the myCSU Student Portal from the link below.

http://mycsu.columbiasouthern.edu

You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive email updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a
non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Quizzes (8 @ 2%)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Assessments (5 @ 6%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit III Project</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit V Project</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit VIII Project</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

## Unit I
### Politics in States and Communities; Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Politics in States and Communities  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 2: Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>Unit I Quiz  &lt;br&gt; Unit I Assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals:

## Unit II
### State, Communities, and American Federalism; Participation in Politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 3: States, Communities, and American Federalism  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 4: Participation in State Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>Unit II Quiz  &lt;br&gt; Unit II Assessment  &lt;br&gt; Proctor Approval Form</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals:

## Unit III
### Parties and Campaigns in the States; Legislators in State Politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Parties and Campaigns in the States  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 6: Legislators in State Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>Unit III Quiz  &lt;br&gt; Unit III Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals:
## Unit IV
**Governors in State Politics; Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities**

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 7: Governors in State Politics
- [ ] Chapter 8: Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities

**Submit:**
- [ ] Unit IV Quiz
- [ ] Unit IV Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit V
**Courts, Crime, and Correctional Policy; Governing America's Communities**

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 9: Courts, Crime, and Correctional Policy
- [ ] Chapter 10: Governing America's Communities

**Submit:**
- [ ] Unit V Quiz
- [ ] Unit V Project

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit VI
**Participation in Community Politics; Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis**

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 11: Participation in Community Politics
- [ ] Chapter 12: Metropolitics: Conflict in the Metropolis

**Submit:**
- [ ] Unit VI Quiz
- [ ] Unit VI Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VII</th>
<th>Community Power, Land Use and the Environment; The Politics of Taxation and Finance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Community Power, Land Use and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 14: The Politics of Taxation and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>Unit VII Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit VII Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Request to take Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Politics and Civil Rights; The Politics of Education; The Politics of Poverty, Welfare, and Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Chapter 15: Politics and Civil Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 16: The Politics of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 17: The Politics of Poverty, Welfare, and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit:</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit VIII Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals: