

**\*\*\* ASSIGNMENT – PLEASE READ AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS  
CHAPTER 1 FOR THE FIRST CLASS\*\*\***

**SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS**

Summer 2005C  
Classroom D225  
Classes: Mon. 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

John Milhiser, Instructor  
Office Hours in D227,  
Mon. 5:45 - 6:00 pm  
Phone: 522-3696 (h)  
544-4868 (w)

**State and Local Government  
PSC 211-70**

**I. Course Description:**

An introduction to state and local government in the United States. Subnational political jurisdictions and systems, including their powers, organization, functions and development are included, as are the institutions of government (legislative, executive, and judiciary). Other topics include federalism, political behavior (political parties, interest groups and voting), metropolitan politics and public policy issues. 3 hours

**II. Textbook:**

Bowman, Ann O'M., and Richard C. Kearney, State and Local Government: The Essentials. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 2d ed. 2003.

**III. Goals, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes:**

**A. Goals**

!To gain an understanding of the form and function of subnational political units within the United States.

!To appreciate the influence these units of government have on individual citizens.

!To understand the democratic process.

**B. Objectives**

!To study governmental structure including checks and balances between branches.

!To examine the political process at the state and local levels.

!To analyze the public's input into the governmental and political process.

**IV. Teaching Methods:**

Lecture/Class Discussion/Guest Speakers/Student Presentations

**V. Course Requirements**

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required. Classroom discussion is an important element of the course, and therefore, more than one absence may result in the final grade being lowered.

**Class Participation:**

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignment and to participate in in-class activities.

**Reading Assignments:**

See course outline. **Please read Chapter 1 for Class 1.**

**VI. Means of Evaluation**

Examinations will include a mid-term and a final exam, consisting of multiple choice and essay questions based on textbook assignments, lectures, guest speakers, and student presentations of written projects. Each student will write an 8-10 page paper on a topic involving state or local government. The papers will be presented to the class beginning in week 3. Keep in mind that plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. The SCI Student Handbook defines plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards. Plagiarism is defined as, "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas of language of the same and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." Black's Law Dictionary 1035 (5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1979).

**Course Requirements:**

Examinations	40%
In-class participation	30%
Project	30%

## **Grading Scale:**

- A = 91 -100 %
- B = 81 -90 %
- C = 71 - 80 %
- D = 61 - 70 %
- E = 60 % and below

## **VII. Topical Course Outline with Reading Assignments**

- Class 1**      The functions of state and local government  
The branches of state and local government  
**Chapter 1**
  
- Class 2**      U.S. Federalism – concept overview and historical  
review  
State Constitutions  
**Chapters 2 & 3**
  
- Class 3**      Elections and Citizen Participation  
Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Campaigns  
**Chapters 4 & 5**
  
- Class 4**      **Mid-Term Exam**  
State Legislatures  
State Executive Branch  
**Chapters 6 & 7**
  
- Class 5**      Public employees – budgeting, personnel issues,  
patronage, bureaucracy  
**Chapter 8**
  
- Class 6**      The Judiciary – structure and function  
**Chapter 9**
  
- Class 7**      Local Governments – intergovernmental relations,  
structure, taxing and spending  
**Chapters 10, 11, & 12**
  
- Class 8**      **Review & Final Exam**

### **VIII. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.

### **IX. Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques**

The goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes listed above will be assessed through the written assignments, presentations, and exams. The instructor will also utilize directed paraphrasing, RSQ2C exercises, and other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary to provide continuous improvement in instruction. All students are required to participate in all assessment measures. Feedback on lectures and assignments is encouraged and will be respected.