

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

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Spring 2007B
Classroom D224
Classes: Tues. 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

John Milhiser, Instructor
Office Hours in Classroom
Tues. 5:45 - 6:00 pm
Phone: 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, 3d ed. 2006.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. 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. Common Student Learning Objectives The following CSLOs, adopted December 9, 2004, apply to this course:

Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) CK-1 Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter

Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) CS-1 Communicate effectively in oral and written forms

Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) PS-1 Use inquiry and collaboration to solve problems

Social Responsibility (Service and Leadership) SR-2 Make ethical and informed decisions

Global Perspectives (Diversity) GP-1 Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities, and cultures

Self-Direction and Personal Growth (Lifelong Learning) SP-1 Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity

C. Course-Based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLO)

To understand governmental structure and recognize and explain checks and balances between branches. (CK-1, CS-1, PS-1)

To analyze the political process at the state and local levels. (CK-1, GP-1)

To apply fundamental governmental principles to factual scenarios in a decision-making context. (CK-1, PS-1, SR-2, GP-1, SP-1)

To analyze the public's input into and influence on the governmental and political process.. (CK-1, PS-1, SR-2, GP-1, SP-1)

V. Teaching Methods:

Lecture/Class Discussion/Guest Speakers/Student Presentations

VI. 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.

VII. 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 (5th 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

VIII. Topical Course Outline with Reading Assignments

Class 1	The functions of state and local government
March 6th	The branches of state and local government Chapter 1
Spring Break	March 13th No Class
Class 2	U.S. Federalism concept overview and historical
March 20th	review State Constitutions Chapters 2 & 3
Class 3	Elections and Citizen Participation
March 27th	Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Campaigns Chapters 4 & 5
Class 4	Mid-Term Exam
April 3rd	State Legislatures State Executive Branch Chapters 6 & 7
Class 5	Public employees budgeting, personnel issues,
April 10th	patronage, bureaucracy Chapter 8
Class 6	The Judiciary structure and function
April 17th	Chapter 9
Class 7	Local Governments intergovernmental relations,
April 24th	structure, taxing and spending Chapters 10, 11, & 12
Class 8	Review & Final Exam
May 1st	

IX. 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.

X. 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.