

## Department:

Political Science

## Course Description:

This course examines the relationships between the federal, state, and local branches of the United States government. Current events will be discussed as they relate to state and local governmental entities. The course will also emphasize the impact of government on daily life.

## Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the impact of state and local government on daily life.
2. Explain the interrelationship of the various levels of government in terms of the American system of federalism.
3. Describe the election process and explain the factors which may determine or influence the outcome of elections.
4. Define and differentiate between political parties, pressure and special interest groups, economic elites, oligarchies, and other groups and institutions, and explain how each may affect the legislative and political process.
5. Describe the role and authority of the governor, legislature, and judiciary, and explain how they interrelate to operate a state government.
6. Describe the workings of county government, its relationship to other governmental entities, and the services it provides.
7. Describe the forms of city government and explain the duties of mayors and city councils, including those in regional metroplexes.
8. Describe how ethnic and cultural diversity affects the political process in the United States, including voting and political party affiliations, educational and socioeconomic status, and trends in changes in these groups.
9. Use word processing software and access the Internet to find research material.

## Course Content:

- A. American Federalism
- B. State and Local Politics
- C. State Constitutions
- D. Parties and Elections in the States
- E. State Legislators
- F. State Governors
- G. Judges and Justice in the States
- H. Local Government and Metropolitics
- I. Making State and Local Policy

J. Staffing and Financing State and Local Government

**Learning Assessments:**

Course competencies will be assessed by regular examinations (short answer essay, multiple choice, true-false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank) and written reviews of books on governmental topics. Other assessment methods, such as a research paper, may be used as well.

**Instructional Materials:**

Textbook: State and Local Politics: Government by the People, 15th ed., Magleby and Light, Pearson, 2012. ISBN: 9780205006397

**Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition**

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

On-Campus Students: At enrollment, any on campus student may complete a form that will allow them to self-identify any disability.

Off-Campus Regional Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs with the Regional Coordinator and/or instructor, preferably prior to the first class meeting.

Online Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator. Students must provide their own programs to allow accessibility on their home computer.

Any student may also identify their disability by completing an online form located on the HCC homepage under Students Services/Resources/Disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Disabilities Coordinator.