Bemidji State University

POL 3200: Minnesota Politics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Using Minnesota politics as a central focus, the role of and function of state and local governments in the context of American federalism is examined. (Might not be offered every year.) [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 11/15/2005 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Course covers the constitutional context for state and local governments in the United States. It explores the varying perspectives on the role and function of state and local governments by looking at key policy debates, state constitutional designs, the legislative, executive and judicial powers in state governments, as well as citizen involvement through interest groups, political parties, political movements and elections.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. explain the responsibilities of state and local governments in the United States
2. summarize the role of federalism in the United States
3. compare state finances and tax policies
4. analyze political attitudes and participation as they relate to state politics
5. outline the role Political parties and interest groups in state politics
6. compare political leadership at the state and local levels
7. analyze state-level legislative processes
8. summarize the state role in education
9. outline the state role in healthcare
10. show how Minnesota politics are unique from those in other states
11. show how Minnesota politics fit a larger pattern of developments in state and local politics
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
   1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
   2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
   3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

   Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
   1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
   2. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
   3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted