

# North Hennepin Community College

## **POLS 1140: State and Local Politics**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

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

This course studies the operation and structure of state governments including executive, legislative, judicial functions as well as elections and policy formation, with an emphasis on Minnesota.

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/10/1997 - Present**

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. This course may include but is not limited to the study of:
  - Minnesota politics
  - Federalism/intergovernmental relations
  - State government institutions
  - City government institutions
  - State and local elections
  - State constitutions
  - Political culture
  - Metropolitics
  - Urban politics
  - Public policies/contemporary social issues
  - Political science methodology
  - Civic engagement

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Build a basic understanding of state and local government systems:
  - a) Identify the three major state government branches (executive, legislative, and judicial) and the respective roles of each branch (NHCC ELO 1)
  - b) Describe state and local election processes and cycles (NHCC ELO 1)
  - c) Identify and discuss current public policy issues at the state and local level (NHCC ELO 1)
  - d) Examine Minnesota politics and compare to other states/localities (NHCC ELO 1)
2. Employ the methods and data that political scientists use to investigate the human condition (MnTC Goal 2, 5a; NHCC ELO 2)
3. Use and critique explanatory systems or theories (MnTC Goal 5c; NHCC ELO 3)
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues (MnTC Goal 5d; NHCC ELO 1)
5. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, etc.) to specific issues (MnTC Goal 9b; NHCC ELO 1)
6. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues (MnTC Goal 9c; NHCC ELO 3)
7. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others (MnTC Goal 9d; NHCC ELO 3)
8. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship (MnTC Goal 9e; NHCC ELO 3)

## **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. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
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.
4. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.