

# Inver Hills Community College

## **POLS 1121: State and Local Government**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

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

Examines state and local government political institutions, behavior, public policies, tax and spending issues. The course will also analyze structure and behavior of state legislatures, governors, courts, and political parties, including the nomination and election process of state and local officials. The course emphasis will be on the Minnesota political system. In your exploration of contemporary Minnesota policy issues, you will critically examine your own political values, experiences and behaviors.

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/01/1998 - Present**

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

1. State Constitutions/Federalism 10%
2. State-Local Relations 10%
3. Public Opinion, Political Socialization, Media 10%
4. State Political Parties 10%
5. State Campaigns and Elections 10%
6. State Legislatures 10%
7. Governors and State Bureaucracy 10%
8. State Courts 10%
9. State Economic Policy 10%
10. Education, Criminal Justice and Welfare Issues 10%

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

1. Explore topics and methods associated with the discipline of Political Science.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of state governmental institutions, legislative, executive, judicial branches and the public bureaucracy.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of local government; cities, counties, school districts, townships, metropolitan government.
4. Analyze state and local politics and parties; elections, nominations, endorsements, primaries, two-party systems.
5. Explore state government issues, civil liberties. Welfare policies, preK-12 and higher education, criminal justice.
6. Consider state government finances and budgets; state and local taxes (income, sales, property) and state spending.
7. Recognize the diversity of political motives and interests of others.
8. Analyze political ideologies and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
9. Examine the relationships among various values, principles, institutions, and traditions, as well as the economic, political, legal, and social orders.
10. Analyze the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships.
11. Apply core concepts such as rights, obligations, justice, liberty, power, and (in)equality to specific issues.

## **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. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted