

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRIEF SYLLABUS

SPECIAL NOTE:

This brief syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. A full syllabus will be distributed to students at the first class session.

TEXT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS USED IN THE COURSE (if any):

Please check with the LCC bookstore <http://www.labette.edu/bookstore> for the required texts for this class.

<u>COURSE NUMBER:</u>	POLS 103
<u>COURSE TITLE:</u>	STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
<u>SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</u>	3
<u>DEPARTMENT:</u>	Political Science
<u>DIVISION:</u>	General Education
<u>PLACEMENT TEST LEVEL:</u>	General Education Course Placement
<u>PREREQUISITE:</u>	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

State and Local Government is designed to introduce students to our federal system of government, and it specifically instructs students in the Constitutional basis for State and Local Governments as well as their structure and mechanics. The course emphasizes basic questions about the forces that produce order, conflict, and change in government. State and Local Government is recommended for political science majors' pre-law students, criminal justice students and all students who want an understanding of the processes, functions, and institutions of our system of government below the National Government level.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- | |
|---|
| <p>1. Define and use the vocabulary words, "key terms", listed at the end of each chapter in the textbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate these vocabulary words into their homework and answers to essay questions on examinations.• Define these vocabulary words on examinations.• Answer multiple-choice and true-false questions referring to these vocabulary words on examinations. |
|---|

2. Analyze the rationale for a federalist form of government and explain the effect of federalism on state and local governments.

- Define and explain the concept of federalism.
- Analyze the political philosophy/theory behind a federalist form of government as opposed to a centralist form of government.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of federalism.

3. Analyze and explain how state and local governments are financed and discuss the constraints limited financing places upon their functions

- Identify the various methods and taxes used to support government at all levels.
- Identify the advantages, weaknesses, and limitations of state government finance.
- Identify the weakness and limitations of the property tax as the chief source of finance for local units of government---especially as regards the financing of education.

4. Analyze and explain the state and local role in education.

- Explain and analyze the pros and cons regarding local control of education.
- Identify the important objectives of the educational system.
- Identify and explain the most important factors, which influence the performance of the educational system.
- Discuss the serious limitations that educational financing places on the educational system.

5. Analyze and explain the state and local role in the criminal justice system.

- Analyze and identify the role of state and local governments in the criminal justice and compare that role with the role of the national government.
- Analyze and explain how the nature of the laws enacted impact the criminal justice system.
- Analyze and explain how other factors, (social, economic, educational opportunity, etc.) impact the crime rate and the criminal justice system.
- Discuss and explain societal expectations for/from the criminal justice system.