



Course Syllabus

Course Title: State and Local Government

Term and Year:

Course and Section Number: POLS 333

Time and Place: Online

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Email:

Instructor:

Office Hours:

Prerequisites: POLS 113

Office Phone:

Course Description: The general relationship between the states and the federal government; organization, functions, and division of authority between the executive, legislative, and judicial. The functions, powers, and forms of county and municipal government.

Required Text: [American Government, Lumen Learning](#)

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

1. Describe the origins and operation of state constitutions, with special reference to the state of Indiana.
2. Discuss the concept of federalism as it relates to state and local governments.
3. Analyze the relationship of interest groups, political parties, and democratic participation in state and local politics.
4. Discuss the operation of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, with special reference to the state of Indiana.
5. Describe the types and operation of local government institutions and their relation to "quality of life" issues.
6. Analyze major issues in state and local government including taxation, criminal justice, education, welfare, and healthcare.

Course Requirements:

Attendance/Participation: All students are expected to log in to their courses regularly throughout the week to receive instruction, materials, and updates from the instructor. It is your responsibility to check in and submit your assignments, complete your discussion board postings, and finish quizzes and exams by the due dates each week.

If you do not participate in the course each week, you will be counted absent. Simply logging in is not enough; you must submit/complete an assignment, post to a discussion board, or other similar assignment tasks to avoid being counted absent. Instructors are required to submit attendance the Monday following each week of class.

Discussion forums: Discussion forums will require four (4) postings. The first of these post must be made before Wednesday (midnight) of the week we are working in and may be your main post or a response. The remaining three (3) post must be in by Sunday (midnight) of the week we are working in, unless otherwise specified.

Once you are marked absent three (3) weeks during a course you will be dropped from the course with a “W”. If you are an international student in a class with a seated requirement, you will be administratively dropped if you do not attend all portions of the seated requirement. Only in the event of rare and unusual circumstances, with formal documentation will you be allowed to continue after your allotted absences.

Attendance is reported to the Financial Aid Department and may result in the loss of any financial aid refund you are expecting if you have not been participating in your courses.

Grading/Evaluation: Grading Scale:	Percentage of points	Grade
	100-90% of points	A
	90-87%	B+
	87-80%	B
	80-70%	C
	70-60%	D
	Below 60%	F

Assignment Points:

Discussion Forums: 10 points

Written Assignments: 20 Points

Final Exam: 50 Points

Other Policies:

Academic Misconduct

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to dishonesty in examinations (cheating), presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as one's own (plagiarism) or knowingly furnishing false information to the University by forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records, or identification. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work, submitting an academic exercise (written work, printing, design, computer program) that has been prepared totally or in part by another, acquiring improper knowledge of the contents of an exam, using unauthorized material during an exam, submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of professors, or submitting a forged grade change slip or computer tampering. The faculty member has the authority to grant a failing grade in cases of academic misconduct as well as referring the case to Student Life.

Plagiarism

You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited: All work submitted by students in this course must be generated by the student. Students may not have another person or entity contribute to an assignment for them, which includes using AI. Students may not incorporate any part of an AI-generated response in an assignment, use AI to formulate arguments, use AI to generate ideas for an assignment, or submit work to an AI platform for improvement. Using an AI tool to generate content may qualify as academic misconduct in this course.

OR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is allowed: Students may use AI tools on instructor-identified assignments in this course. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work. Using an AI tool without proper attribution may qualify as academic misconduct in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to verify the accuracy, reliability, and ethical implications of AI-generated content.

Electronic Devices

Use of electronic devices including smart watches and cell phones is prohibited during exams or quizzes unless directly allowed by the instructor.

Course Calendar/Schedule: See Moodle for schedule/calendar.

Course Mapping:

Week One: State Constitutions (LO1)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments

<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 14: State Power and Delegation (LO1) <p>Watch:</p> <p>Local, State, and National Government Summary (LO1)</p>	<p>Discussion Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss where Indiana and other states received their powers from, to include the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Include why you believe the new federal government allowed the states to possess this power. (LO1) <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Written Assignment: Based on the two resources provided, write a three-page paper on what two power are most valuable to the State of Indiana and why. (LO1)</p>
Week Two: Local Government (LO3,5)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 14: County and City Government (LO3) • County Government (LO3) • State and Local Government (LO3) (LO5) 	<p>Discussion Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After watching Week Two videos, discuss not only what local and county governments do, but how you could get involved in this process. (LO3) (LO5) <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Video Assignment: Being part of a local government gives you the power to make decisions that affect you and your neighbors, but first you must get elected. In a 5-10-minute Panopto video, tell us what you can do to improve your town if elected. (LO3)</p>
Week Three: Political Parties (LO3)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 10: Interest Groups Defined (LO3) • Article: Indiana Special Interest Groups (LO3) • Article: Political Parties in Indiana (LO3) <p>Review:</p> <p>Special Interest Groups Flashcards in Quizlet(LO3)</p>	<p>Discussion Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what both political parties and special interest groups do. (LO3) <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Written Assignment: Pick a special interest group you would like to work for. How would you go about helping that group influence government at the state level? (LO3)</p>
Week Four: Major Issues in State Govt (LO2,5,6)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments

<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 14: State Legislative Term Limits (LO6) • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 14: Governors and State Legislatures (LO2) • Article: The Biggest Issues for States to Watch in 2019 (LO6) • Article: The Relationship Between the States and the Federal Government (LO6) <p>Article: Immigration 101: What is a Sanctuary City? (LO2) (LO5)</p>	<p>Discussion Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum 1: Every day the executive branch of the state government must make decision that effect our daily lives. Our discussion will be to review some of those decisions and discuss them. (LO6) • Forum 2: State and local governments could not exist if it was not for Federalism. Sharing of power is the main reason for Federalism to exist. It gives both concurrent and exclusive power to both states and the Federal government. Identify powers that are shared and those that are exclusive. (LO2) <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Assignment: After reading about term limits and watching the podcast, write an opinion paper on the pros and cons for term limits at the state level. (LO6) <p>Written Assignment: A very current issue is that sanctuary cities created by states in defiance of Immigration Laws. Do you feel this is right or wrong and what actions can the federal government take? Look at some sanctuary cities, like San Francisco and what they have done to limit access to immigrants by Federal agencies such as ICE or the US Marshalls. (LO2) (LO5)</p>
<p>Week Five: Major Issues in Local Govt (LO4,6)</p>	
<p>Learning Activities and Materials</p>	<p>Assessments</p>
<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 14: County and City Government (LO6) • American Government, Lumen Learning, Module 15: The Bureaucracy (LO4) • Article: Our Survey Shows the Top-Five Issues that Keep Local Government Official Awake at Night (LO6) 	<p>Discussion Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum 1: Read and discuss what major issues local governments are facing. Use examples from your city/town and how to correct those problems. (LO6) • Forum 2: Hiring at both the state and local level has often been described as “who you know”. Discuss the ways states

<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article: Five Issues with America's Infrastructure (LO6) Indiana Court System (LO6) Workplace Issues PowerPoint Presentation (LO4) <p>Overview US Judicial System and Federal Judicial Center (LO4)</p>	<p>and local government can hire effectively. Is a true merit system the solution? (LO4)</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Assignment: Infrastructure is a problem facing local, state, and federal governments. In a three-page paper pick one major infrastructure project and discuss not only how you would fix the problem but how you would pay for it. (LO6) <p>Video Assignment: Create a job application interview for an assistant town manager. In a five-minute Panopto video, ask approximately 12 questions you would want to ask this candidate. Remember your questions should be based on merit, not “who you know” such as education and experience. (LO4)</p>
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Week Six: Final (LO1-6)

Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article: Pandemic Federalism <p>Listen:</p> <p>Podcast: Pandemic Revives States' Rights Debate (Duration: 5:28)</p>	<p>Assignment:</p> <p>Written Assignment: This final paper will be 10 pages in length and will require at least four references. Your final paper will concentrate on two main topics. The first being the current Coronavirus pandemic, the second is Federalism. As we have seen, individual states have come up with their own regulations and rules on how to deal with the pandemic, which the federal government has primarily fulfilled the role of advisor. The US Constitution provides very little power to the Federal government aside from restricting travel and providing funds. Since Federalism is the sharing of power between the Federal government and state government, the founding fathers left the power to deal with pandemics (diseases at the time) to the states. Detail in your paper what the Federal government can and cannot do and select several states (some of who disagree with the</p>

	Federal government) and list how they are using their powers to deal with this event. (LO1)(LO2)(LO3)(LO4)(LO5)(LO6)
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