

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 221: Minnesota 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 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

A study of the basic functions, structure, procedures and problems of American state and local government, with an emphasis upon intergovernmental relations. MnTC Goal 5 and 9.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/13/2012 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Federalism---historical and current rules of interaction between federal and state government.
2. State political culture---Minnesota as typical of the "moralistic" political culture--evolution of Minnesota politics, decline of the moralist culture.
3. Federal policy mandates---unemployment insurance, health care, unfunded mandates.
4. State constitutions---including a review of the Minnesota Constitution.
5. State institutions---governors, legislatures, judiciary.
6. Local participatory institutions---party organization, "grass roots" groups, campaigns and elections---history of the D-F-L and Minnesota GOP.
7. State and local bureaucracy--budget process, taxation, bonding issues.
8. Education policy---K-12 and the "Minnesota Miracle"; Higher education funding--private colleges, the University of Minnesota (land grant) and the creation of MN State.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will learn the major tenets of American federalism, the role of the states within the federal system, and the relationship between federal and state government.
2. Students will learn how the states delegate certain responsibilities to their sub units of local governance---county, municipality, township and how that relationship is maintained and monitored.
3. Students will take an active role in learning where they can affect Minnesota public policy in the areas of education policy by being able to locate state and local officials and be able to direct their concerns to the appropriate office or agency for redress.
4. Students will consider the efficacy and ethics of redistributive policies regarding state revenues in examining the history of the "Minnesota Miracle" and Local Government aid.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

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.

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.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted