Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: POS 124 (IAI S5 902)
Course Title: State and Local Government

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 45.1001
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Sub-national politics focusing upon local governments, Illinois constitution, voting and political party organizations, legislatures, courts, budgeting and finance, and executive branches.

General Course Objectives

To provide information about the relationship between state and local governments and the individual.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

3 objective exams and 1 comprehensive final exam (multiple choice, true/false, essay), 10-12 quizzes, PowerPoint presentation, and final project.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

State and Local Government: The Essentials, by Ann O'M. Bowman and Richard C. Kearney. 9781285737485

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Technology: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate, select, and appropriately use current and emerging tools.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction: A) Politics, B) Political culture	1. Explain basic concepts in the study of politics. 2. Explain the meaning of political culture and describe the political culture of Illinois.	6	0	0
State-Federal: A) Constitution, B) Federalism, C) Flag	1. Explain and describe the major features of the 1970 Illinois Constitution. 2. Explain the background and significance of Federalism. 3. Explain the development and meaning of, respect for, and display of the U.S. flag.	6	0	0
Political Linkages: A) Voting, B) Political parties	1. Explain the background of and requirements for voting. 2. Explain the structure and operation of political parties in Illinois. 3. Explain the origin of nominations and describe the different types of elections in state and local governments.	6	0	0
State Legislature: A) Background, B) Operation	1. Explain the background, structure, and operation of legislatures. 2. Practice a legislative committee exercise.	6	0	0
State Courts: A) Organization, B) Operation	1. Explain the organization and function of Illinois State courts. 2. Explain the operation of the grand jury and petit jury. 3. Distinguish between civil and criminal law and explain the purpose and jurisdiction of state courts.	6	0	0
State Executive: A) Characteristics, B) Powers	1. Explain general characteristics of the governor's office. 2. Explain general gubernatorial powers. 3. Explain powers of other state executives. 4. Explain how state and local governments are financed and describe the political process that characterizes budget-making in state governments.	9	0	0
Local Government	1. Describe the origin of county, township, New England town, and special district governments in the U.S. 2. Explain the powers and operation of county, township, town, and special district governments in the U.S.	6	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0