

## Master Syllabus

### PLS 1232 - State & Local Government

**Division:** Liberal Arts, Communication and Social Sciences

**Department:** Political Science

**Credit Hour Total:** 3.0

**Lecture Hrs:** 3.0

**Date Revised:** June 2014

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### Course Description:

The study of state and local governments (with emphasis on Ohio), organizational structures of state and local governments, state constitutions, county and city charters, state and local government powers and programs, financing, and taxation, and trends in government programs are all documented and analyzed.

### General Education Outcomes:

- ▣ Oral Communication Competency
- ▣ Written Communication Competency
- ▣ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Competency
- ▣ Values/Citizenship/Community Competency
- ▣ Computer Literacy Competency
- ▣ Information Literacy Competency

### Course Outcomes:

#### **Intergovernmental relationships**

Analyze and describe the relationships between federal, state, and local governments within the context of the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions.

**Assessment Method:** Locally developed exams

**Performance Criteria:** 70% or better

#### **State and local government structures**

Demonstrate understanding of the structures and organization of state and local governments (with emphasis within the state of Ohio).

**Assessment Method:** Locally developed exams

**Performance Criteria:** 70% or better

#### **Fiscal policies**

Analyze and evaluate fiscal policies and challenges in states and local communities (budgeting, financing, taxation, programs, powers, elections, political issues).

**Assessment Method:** Locally developed exams

**Performance Criteria:** 70% or better

#### **Elections and judicial systems**

Describe and demonstrate understanding of the organization, functions, powers of state and local courts. Describe and understand the functions of states and local communities in managing elections, maintaining programs, and meeting fiscal challenges.

**Assessment Method:** Locally developed exams

**Performance Criteria:** 70% or better

### Outline:

Organization and operation of state governments  
State constitutions  
Election processes in state and local governments  
Branches and organizations in state and local governments  
Finances and taxation in state and local governments  
Organization of local governments (with emphasis on Ohio)  
Powers, functions and problems of cities, metropolitan areas, townships and counties (with emphasis on Ohio)  
Current trends in state and local governments