



North Central Michigan College Master Course Syllabus

PART 1:

Course Name: State and Local Government

Course Number: PLS 225

Credit Hrs. 3 Lecture Hrs. 3 Lab Hrs. 0 Clinical Hrs. 0 Variable Hrs. 0

Total Hours of Instruction: 3 Total Contact Hours: 52.8
(Total Contact hour's formula: (lecture hrs. + lab hrs. + clinical hrs) x 17.6)

Course Description:

An examination of participatory democracy in Michigan at the state and local levels of government, with emphasis on constitutional foundations, and the roles of the media, political parties and interest groups in influencing public opinion, voting behavior and public policy. Interest group organizational models and operational processes are analyzed. Field experiences for this course may include state, county, township, city and village commissions, councils and boards.

Prerequisite (s): none

Co-requisite (s): none

Course Objectives:

- Describe the structure, functions and operations of state government institutions in Michigan.
- Describe the structure, functions and operations of local government institutions in Michigan.
- Explain how media, interest groups and political parties serve as institutions to connect people to state and local governments.
- Explain the process of public policy development and implementation in Michigan.
- Apply knowledge of state and local governance issues and processes to civic practice.

Reasonable accommodations can be provided for students with documented disabilities. Please contact Learning Support Services to arrange for these (231)348-6687 or (231)348-6817, Room 533 SCRC.



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PART 2:

Course Objectives and Linked Lumina DQP Outcomes

See **PART 3** of this syllabus for the complete language of each Lumina DQP outcome.

*Please identify the Lumina DQP outcome(s) supported by the course objectives. List each course objectives (from **PART 1**), followed by the corresponding Lumina DQP Outcome number(s) in parentheses.*

- Describe the structure, functions and operations of state government institutions in Michigan. (DQP 1)
- Describe the structure, functions and operations of local government institutions in Michigan. (DQP 1)
- Explain how media, interest groups and political parties serve as institutions to connect people to state and local governments. (DQP 6)
- Explain the process of public policy development and implementation in Michigan. (DQP 6)
- Apply knowledge of state and local governance issues and processes to civic practice. (DQP 18, 19)



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Suggested Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, field experience, collaborative work, simulation, small-group and whole-class discussion

Suggested Methods of Assessment and Evaluation:

May include: individual writing assignments, exams, class participation, and group and individual presentations deriving from class activities.

Adopted Text at Time of Course Adoption/Revision:

Politics in States and Communities (13th Edition), Dye, T. & MacManus, D., Pearson, 2009

Topics Covered During the Semester:

Sequence of topics and time allowance are at the discretion of the instructor

WEEK 1	Course Overview: Politics in State and Communities
WEEK 2	Democracy and Constitutionalism in the States
WEEK 3	States, Communities, American Federalism
WEEK 4	Participation in State Politics
WEEK 5	Parties and Campaigns in Community Politics
WEEK 6	Legislators and Governors in State Politics
WEEK 7	Participation in Community Politics
WEEK 8	Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities
WEEK 9	Courts, Crime and Correctional Policy
WEEK 10	The Politics of Poverty, Welfare and Health
WEEK 11	Governing America's Communities
WEEK 12	Community Power and Land Use
WEEK 13	Politics and Civil Rights
WEEK 14	The Politics of Education
WEEK 15	The Politics of Education
WEEK 16	Final Exam

Part 1 & Part 2 approved by CRDAP on: 04 17 15

Part 2 approved by AD:

Date:

Part 2 approved by CRDAP Chair:

Date:

Rev02/15



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PART 3:

LUMINA DQP OUTCOMES – Use this reference sheet for **PART 2** of Master Course Syllabus.

Specialized Knowledge

1. Describes the scope and principal features of the field of study, citing at least some of its core theories and practices, and offers a similar explication of at least one related field.
2. Illustrates contemporary terminology used in the field.
3. Generates substantially error-free products, reconstructions, data, juried exhibits or performances as appropriate to the field.

Broad Integrative Knowledge

4. Describes how existing knowledge or practice is advanced, tested and revised
5. Describes and examines a range of perspectives on key debates and their significance both within the field and in society.
6. Illustrates core concepts of the field while executing analytical, practical or creative tasks.
7. Selects and applies recognized methods of the field in interpreting characteristic discipline-based problems.
8. Assembles evidence relevant to characteristic problems in the field, describes the significance of the evidence, and uses the evidence in analysis of these problems.
9. Describes the ways in which at least two disciplines define, address and interpret the importance of a contemporary challenge or problem in science, the arts, society, human services, economic life or technology.

Intellectual Skills – Analytic Inquiry

10. Identifies, categorizes and distinguishes among elements of ideas, concepts, theories and/or practical approaches to standard problems.

Intellectual Skills – Use of Information Resources

11. Identifies, categorizes, evaluates and cites multiple information resources necessary to engage in projects, papers or performance in his or her program.

Intellectual Skills – Engaging Diverse Perspectives

12. Describes how knowledge from different cultural perspectives would affect his or her interpretations of prominent problems in politics, society, the arts and/or global relations.

Intellectual Skills – Communication Fluency

13. Presents accurate calculations and symbolic operations, and explains how such calculations and operations are used in either his or her specific field of study or in interpreting social and economic trends.
14. Presents substantially error-free prose in both argumentative and narrative forms to general and specialized audiences.

Applied Learning

15. Describes in writing at least one substantial case in which knowledge and skills acquired in academic settings are applied to a challenge in a non-academic setting; applies that learning to the question; and analyzes at least one significant concept or method related to his or her course of study in light of learning outside the classroom.
16. Locates, gathers and organizes evidence on an assigned research topic addressing a course-related question or a question of practice in a work or community setting; offers and examines competing hypotheses in answering the question.

Civic Learning

17. Describes his or her own civic and cultural background, including its origins and development, assumptions, and predispositions.
18. Describes diverse positions, historical and contemporary, on selected democratic values or practices, and presents his or her own position on a specific problem where one or more of these values or practices are involved.
19. Takes an active role in a community context (work, service, co-curricular activities, etc.), and examines the civic issues encountered and the insights gained from the community experience.

The Degree Qualifications Profile was adopted by CRDAP: April 11, 2012