

Outcomes Based Learning Matrix

Course: State and Local Government (GOVT 301) Department: History/Government

This course investigates the structure and politics of American government at the state and local level. Types of legislatures, city councils, governors, mayors, city managers, county government, the development and operation of town meetings, and constitutional, judicial, and financial problems are discussed. This course is intended to follow GOVT 105 American National Government. Prerequisites: ENGL 092 Preparing for College Reading II and ENGL099 Introductory Writing, waiver by placement testing results, or departmental approval.

Course Outcomes	Outcomes Activities	Assessment Tools
<p>Develop an understanding of state and local government policy processes</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of the role(s) of state and local government in relation to the national government including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxation • Legislation • Concurrent Powers <p>Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the functions of state and local governments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Infrastructure • Social Services • Law Enforcement • Judiciary • Economy 	<p>Actively read the text, handouts, other materials and documents, including web sites. Employ active listening and note taking skills. Identify key elements of the political process</p> <p>Participate in active discussions related to the diffusion of power among government entities</p> <p>(R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Questions and Answers, Discussion (R & CT & W & OC)</p> <p>Class Presentations (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p> <p>Research Papers (R & W & CT & TS)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on factual content, broad themes, complex issues and long periods of time</p>
<p>Identify various governmental and non-governmental actors involved in those processes</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge in specific areas including:</p>	<p>Take copious notes on lectures to understand the process by which state and local government operates</p> <p>Read text material to participate in active</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Questions and Answers, Discussion (R & CT & W & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on broad themes, complex and difficult issues and long periods</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Local elected offices • Pluralism • Special Interests • Constituent/Community Participation • Media 	<p>discussions centered on policy and process</p> <p>Utilize current periodicals and web-based information to identify political and societal trends related to specific knowledge areas (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p>	<p>of time (compare/contrast, criticize and analyze)</p>
<p>Gain knowledge of the various factors that affect state and local politics including population change, economic development, changing attitudes and beliefs, political culture, and globalization</p>	<p>Use text, web, discussion and other materials to examine, analyze and define conceptual and material factors affecting the operation of government</p> <p>(R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Discussion, Reviews, Reaction papers, Class Presentations, Research Papers (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on complex individuals and issues, long periods of time. (analyze, compare and contrast, criticize)</p>
<p>Understand how Massachusetts system of governance compares to other states</p>	<p>Utilize handouts and web-based material to compare and contrast the systems of government and identify and discuss the differences in state governance</p> <p>Participate in lectures discussing social factors impacting the differences in state governments (R & CT & W & OC)</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Questions and Answers, Discussion (R & CT & W & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on broad themes, long periods of time and complex issues (analyze, compare and contrast)</p>
<p>Apply various policy-making models to policy decision-making in state and local governments</p>	<p>Utilize a variety of materials to analyze the policy making process and decision making methodology</p> <p>Participate in lecture discussions related to the impact of state and local government policy (R & CT & W & OC)</p>	<p>Discussion, Reviews, Reaction papers, Class Presentations, Research Papers (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on broad themes, long periods of time, complex individuals and issues. (analyze, criticize, compare and contrast)</p>
<p>Investigate various socioeconomic and political factors that influence state and local policy processes, and then apply this synthesis to specific state and local policy issues</p>	<p>Utilize text, local and national periodicals, web based material and other primary sources to research relevant factors of influence</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Discussion, Reviews, Reaction papers, Class Presentations, Research Papers (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on both broad and specific</p>

	<p>Prepare reports, reviews and papers (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p>	<p>themes, long periods of time, complex individuals and issues (analyze, criticize, compare and contrast)</p>
<p>Evaluate the differing institutional structures of state and local governments in the United States from the criteria of citizen influence and democracy.</p>	<p>Utilize current and historical data to research and analyze themes related to community involvement and influence in state and local government and democracy</p> <p>Participate in discussions examining the development and evolution of the institutional structures of state and local government (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p>	<p>Quizzes, Tests, Discussion, Reviews, Reaction papers, Class Presentations, Research Papers (R & W & CT & TS & OC)</p> <p>Assessment at this level focuses on broad themes, difficult issues, long periods of time and complex individuals</p>