



Alabama Community College System

POL 220 State and Local Government

I. POL 220 State and Local Government—3 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

This course is a study of the forms of organization, functions, institutions, and operation of American state and local governments. Emphasis is placed on the variety of forms and functions of state and local governments, with particular attention to those in Alabama and to the interactions between state and local government and the national government.

Prerequisite

As required by program

III. Textbook

NOTE: Please replace this statement with textbook information.

Due to the varied selection of quality college-level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

IV. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and define basic concepts of political science, e.g., power, politics, government, administration, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.
2. Identify and distinguish between the various branches and levels of government and their respective powers.
3. Compare and contrast the constitutional aspects of government in different states and communities, e.g., strong mayor and weak mayor systems, long and short-ballot states, variations in appointment and removal powers of executives, etc.
4. Identify and contrast the various methods for citizen participation, e.g., elections and voting, lobbying, and political parties.
5. Analyze the decision-making process, formal and informal.

V. Course Outline of Topics

1. State and Local Government
2. Federalism and Intergovernmental relations
3. State Constitutions
4. Electoral Politics
5. Legislatures
6. Governors and Administration

7. Courts
8. Municipal Government
9. County, Metropolitan and Regional Government

VI. Evaluation and Assessment

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

VIII. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

It is the official policy of the Alabama Community College System and entities under its control, including all Colleges, that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of any impermissible criterion or characteristic, including, without limitation, race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, sex, age, or any other protected class as defined by federal and state law. (ACCS Policies 601.02 and 800.00)

IX. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the *Americans with Disabilities Act* of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.