Course Summary

Course: PADM620  Title: Local Political Administration
Length of Course: 8
Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

Description

Course Description: This course will expand the student's understanding of the leading approaches to public administration with a focus on the local and state levels of government. It will cover topics including decision-making, budget and taxation, and electoral and legal differences between state and local governments and other states. It will cover the legislative process and how it fits into the larger federal system. Students will see the implications to the larger federal issues they have studied and their application to state and local bureaucracies.

Course Scope:

The course covers a combination of theories and applications that will provide the student with basic tools required to understand, navigate, and communicate with the three basic branches of state government as well as the bureaucracy. The emphasis of the course is based on a study of composing, legislating, implementing, and enforcing public policy set against a background of both historical and current elements.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Assess the leading approaches to managing local government services
2. Evaluate the moral, legal, and ethical aspects of decision-making at the local government level
3. Evaluate the local government budgeting process and funding of local programs and services
4. Appraise the role of local government in public policy development and implementation
5. Develop solutions to a local public issue that take into account multiple stakeholders and decision-makers
6. Implement the core concept of public service by providing evidence of service to your community
7. Critique a difficult local political situation and offer creative and innovative solutions that take into
account multiple stakeholders and decision-makers

8. Assess the part diversity, or lack thereof, plays in public administration

Outline

Week 1: Introduction to State and Local Governance

Learning Objectives

1

Readings

Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 1

Week 2: Federalism

Learning Objectives

1

Readings

Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 2

Week 2 Assignment: Mandates

Week 3: Elections and Political Parties

Learning Objectives

1, 4

Readings

Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 3

Week 4: Governors and the Legislature

Learning Objectives

2, 4, 5
Readings
Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 4
Week 4 Assignment: Government Regulation

**Week 5: State Courts**

Learning Objectives
2, 5

Readings
Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 5

**Week 6: Cities and Metropolitan Areas**

Learning Objectives
1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

Readings
Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 6
Week 6 Assignment: Servant Leadership

**Week 7: Decision Making and Civil Servants**

Learning Objectives
1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

Readings
Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 7

**Week 8: Privatization and Taxation (budget and finance)**

Learning Objectives
Readings

Please see the materials section below for your required readings.

Assignments

Forum 8

Assignment: Observation of a Government Meeting

Evaluation

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Forum Introductions</td>
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<td>Week 4 Assignment: Government Regulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 Assignment: Servant Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observation of Government meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 Assignment: Observation of a Public Meeting</td>
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Materials

**Book Title:** Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** N/A

**Required Readings**
Please see the list below for your required readings and viewings for the course. You can find the journals by logging into the APUS library and searching the title. They are also available to you in the lessons section of the course by clicking on the Reading and Resources tab each week.

Readings PADM620

**Week One - Intro to State and Local Government**

**Government 101: State Governments**

[https://votesmart.org/education/states#We51ahNSzBI](https://votesmart.org/education/states#We51ahNSzBI)


To see an example of one state government site, see Ohio.gov at [http://www.ohio.gov/government/state/](http://www.ohio.gov/government/state/) You can find yours on some of the website links listed next.

Additional resources – Please review these resources and explore the tabs. You are encouraged to use them in your forums as well.

*State and Local on the net*

[http://www.statelocalgov.net/](http://www.statelocalgov.net/)

*Whitehouse.gov*

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/state-and-local-government](https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/state-and-local-government)

*National Conference of State Legislatures*


*National Governors Association*

[https://www.nga.org/cms/home](https://www.nga.org/cms/home)

*National League of Cities*

Week Two – Federalism


Week Three - Elections and Political Parties


**Week Four - Governors and the Legislature**


**Week Five – State Courts**

Judicial Learning Center

State Courts vs. Federal Courts

http://judiciallearningcenter.org/state-courts-vs-federal-courts/

Please take the challenge on each page and continue to click through all the links to end on the Impartial Federal Judiciary video. Please watch it as well. Finish with the Judicial Independence quiz.

Comparing Federal and State Courts


US Legal. State Courts

https://system.uslegal.com/state-courts/


Hartmus, D. M., & Walters, J. (2016). Municipal bankruptcy and local court funding: What we can learn from
Week Six – Cities and Metropolitan Areas


Week Seven – Decision Making and Civil Servants


Week Eight – Privatization and Taxation


**Web Sites**

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Web Site URL/Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Association of Counties</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">http://www.naco.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Association of Towns and Townships</td>
<td><a href="http://www.natat.org">http://www.natat.org</a></td>
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Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 20% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement
Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.