

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **POLI-102 State and Local Government 3 Credits**

### **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

#### **Description**

The students will evaluate, debate, and critically analyze the public policies which emerge from the political processes of state and local government by examining the following: (1) the constraints on state and local governments in making and implementing policy; (2) the policy roles of the legislative, executive, judicial, and administrative branches; (3) the successes and failures of state and local governments in dealing with the following public policy areas - criminal justice, welfare, education, housing, transportation, and the environment; (4) the role of citizen influence on public policy and an examination of some alternatives to the conventional channels of state and local government. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

#### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the relationship between the Federal government and State/Local governments.
2. Identify the major funding issues confronting state and local governments.
3. List the general components of county, city, and other local governments.
4. Describe how local government bodies such as school boards, commissions and citizen organizations affect local policies.
5. Identify the roles and responsibilities of governors, mayors, county executives and county/city councils.
6. Compare the Maryland State government to other state systems.
7. Identify the Howard County Government process.
8. Compare and confront state political parties with national parties.
9. Debate and identify major political issues for the State of Maryland and Howard County.
10. Describe the legal court system of the State of Maryland and discuss and contrast its relationship to the Federal Judiciary.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Citizen influence on State and Local governments.
- II. Constraints on State and Local governments in Maryland and Howard County.
- III. The Institutions that make and implement public service policies.
- IV. Specific issues facing state and local governments.
  - A. Taxes
  - B. School
  - C. Race Relations
  - D. Criminal Justice System

## **Course Requirements**

**Grading/Exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will generally include:

- 3 exams, at least one will be a written essay type
- 1 written interview of a non-elected local government employee
- 1 in-class debate with written summary of major points covered

**Writing:** Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2500 words of formal writing. Periodically students may be required to use writing in class as a means to learn, to integrate information and to clarify their responses to assigned works.

## **Other Course Information:**

This course is a Social Science core course and is required for Criminal Justice majors.