HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: PSCI 1300 - State and Local Government
CREDITS: 3 (3 Lec / 0 Lab)
PREREQUISITES: College-level reading ability required.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
State and Local Government examines the organization and operation of city, county, local, and state government, with particular attention to Minnesota. Topics include the state-federal relationship; intergovernmental relations; the functions of state governments; state constitutions; voting; political parties and interest groups; state legislative, executive, and judicial branches; county and city governments and their operation; urban politics in modern America; state and local government finance; and challenges facing state and local governments in the 21st century. MNTC goal areas: (5) History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences and (9) Ethic and Civic Responsibility.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
I. Federalism and state/local government
   A. The colonial American legacy
   B. Growth of the federal system
   C. Federalism from New Deal to Nixon
   D. Federalism in the 1990s
II. State constitutions
III. Political parties and interest groups
   A. Political party roles in state government
   B. The political party's public role
   C. Interest groups in state politics
   D. Interest group techniques
   E. Lobbyists and state government
IV. State legislatures
   A. Who legislates?
   B. The role of state legislatures
   C. How legislatures are operated
V. Governors and the executive branch
   A. Governors' roles and powers
   B. Gubernatorial success stories
   C. Bureaucrats and the executive branch
VI. State courts
   A. Types of courts
   B. Who judges?
   C. Operation of the courts
D. State prisons and rehabilitation
E. Civil and individual rights

VII. Local government operations
A. The mayor
B. The city council
C. The special district

VIII. Urban affairs
A. Modern urban governments
B. Challenges facing American cities
C. The structure of urban government

IX. Taxes and budgeting
A. The source of funds
B. Types of taxes
C. The budget process

X. Contemporary issues
A. Welfare and education reform
B. Garbage and nuclear waste disposal
C. Health care and workmen's compensation
D. Water resources and resource management
E. Economic development
F. Tribal governments and conflicts with state authority

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
Students will
1. explain the workings of the federal system.
2. describe the changes that have taken place in the federal/state balance of power since the Depression.
3. describe the major elements in most state constitutions.
4. explain the role of political parties in state and local government.
5. identify major interest groups active in state politics.
6. describe the tactics interest groups use to reach and affect the public.
7. describe what type of people usually become state legislators.
8. explain the role of state legislatures within state government.
9. describe how legislatures operate and how laws are made.
10. list the roles and powers that state governors have.
11. describe the role bureaucrats play in state government.
12. describe the different types of courts found at the state and local level.
13. identify the common characteristics most judges chosen and elected to office possess.
14. explain how state and local courts operate.
15. explain the mayor’s role in local government.
16. describe the operation of city councils.
17. list the various types of special districts and describe their operations.
18. identify major problems facing urban governments today.
19. explain how urban governments are organized.
20. describe the various types of taxes assessed by state and local governments.
21. explain how the budget process works.
22. describe current efforts at reforming welfare and public education.
23. explain garbage and nuclear waste disposal problems facing state and local governments.
24. describe strategies to promote local economic development.
25. identify areas where tribal governments and state and local authorities may come into conflict.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Ethics and Civic Responsibility

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Communicating Clearly & Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and be prepared to contribute to and participate in class discussions.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: (SPECIAL FEES, DIRECTIVES ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, ETC.):

AASC APPROVAL DATE: February 16, 2012
REVIEW DATE: February 2017