

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: PS 203: State and Local Government

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: RD 100, EN 060

Description: The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic principles and functions of government at the state and local level with special attention to New Jersey's state, county, and local government structure and function. The course will examine Federalism, political parties and elections, and the three branches of government in the context of New Jersey politics. Students will be encouraged to develop a critical and analytical approach to political issues and public policy.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain their rights and duties as New Jersey citizens
- Enumerate those principles of government considered essential to our state constitution
- Explain the meaning of American Federalism
- Explain the constitutional basis of state government in the United States
- Discuss the fundamental concepts, functions, and processes of politics
- Describe the basic functions of government performed by state institutions
- Explain the purpose and functions of state political parties

Topical Outline:

- American Federalism Part I
- American Federalism Part II
- The New Jersey Constitution
- Political Parties I
- Political Parties II
- Voting and Elections I
- Voting and Elections II
- State Legislatures I
- State Legislatures II
- State Legislatures III
- State Governors I
- State Governors II
- New Jersey Governors
- Executive Departments & Agencies I
- State Judiciary I
- State Judiciary II
- County Government I

- County Government II
- Municipal Government I
- Municipal Government II
- State and Local Policy: Budget and Taxation
- State and Local Policy: Social Services and Law Enforcement

Text: Bowman, A. & Kearney, R. (2011). *State and Local Government: The Essentials* (6th ed.). Cengage.

Student Assessment: Essay required. Additional assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.