**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Number: POLS 1828

Course Title: State and Local Government

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Division/Discipline: Academics Division/Political Science

Course Description: This course examines the evolution and development that has taken place in the states since the founding period. It focuses on the principles of organization and practical operations of state, county, and city governments in the United States. Special emphasis will be given to current problems facing state and local governments.

1. **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**
2. **COLLEGE POLICIES**

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. The student is responsible for learning the rules of, and avoiding instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism. Information about academic integrity is located in the Student Handbook.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the College educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and College Policy & Procedure Manual. (Most up-to-date documents are available on the College webpage).

Any student seeking an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is to notify Student Support Services via email at [disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu).

1. **COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM**

The information presented in this course has been selected to introduce US Government as an approved general education course at Barton Community College (BCC) to fulfill degree requirements as a breadth social science course in the social behavioral sciences.

This course transfers well and may be used to help fulfill credits and course requirements for general education at most Kansas Regent Universities. However, general education requirements vary among institutions, and perhaps even among departments, colleges or programs within an institution. Also, the requirements may change from time to time and without notification. Therefore, it shall be the student's responsibility to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions during his/her tenure at Barton Community College (BCC) to insure that he/she enrolls in the most appropriate set of courses for the transfer program.

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

Course Outcomes, Competencies and Supplemental Competencies:

This course will allow the student to acquire an understanding of the role of state and local governments in the American federal system by focusing on the basic institutions as well as a broad spectrum of public policy issues that affect governing in the states.

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

1. Identify the division of powers between the federal government and the state governments, and the change in this relationship over time.
   1. Define capacity and explain how state and local governments are transforming.
   2. Explain the balance of power and responsibility between national state and local governments.
   3. Identify different types of Federalism.
   4. Describe the evolution of the State Constitution and its historic development.
   5. Analyze the role of subnational governments in the American system.
2. Explain the basic structures and processes of state government including the legislature, executive, judiciary, and bureaucracy.
   1. Explain how laws are made at the state and local level.
   2. Define the roles and terms of leaders and elections process at the state and local level.
   3. Describe the structure of the court system and appellate process at the state and local level.
   4. Describe the role of interest groups and political parties in American subnational governments.
3. Describe different policies addressed by state and local governments and the difficulties of implementing those policies.
   1. Explain economic policies and the relationship with state and local institutions.
   2. Describe state mandates and fiscal policies.
   3. Define the variations that exist among states in terms of the degrees of home rule authority granted by the states to their different types of local governments.
   4. Explain State ‘control boards’ and other state responses to local fiscal crises.
4. Examine role of the states (and local governments in some states) in the operation of major federally-defined but jointly-financed and state-administered programs
   1. Identify Education, Finance and Environmental policies shared between the national, state and local governments.
   2. Describe the role that each level supports with joint policies such as Medicaid and more recently the Affordable Care Act.
   3. Distinguish between categorical grants, block grant and revenue sharing.
   4. Explain current developments involving state and local governmental institutions and processes in their proper theoretical and historical context.

**VI. INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS**

**VII. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**VIII. REFERENCES**

**IX. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION**

**X. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**XI. COURSE OUTLINE**