

**Miami-Dade Community College**  
**POS 2112- State and Local Government**

Course Description: A course designed to study the role of state and local government in the United States, the different forms available throughout the Union, and the types of problems they face, with special emphasis on the governmental organizations of the State of Florida and of Southeastern Florida.

*3 Credits*

**Prerequisites and Corequisites:** None

**Course Competencies:**

<b>Competency 1.</b>	<b>THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF FEDERALISM BY:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. examining the origins, rationale, interpretation and alternatives to federalism.</li><li>b. describing the constitutional structure of American federalism.</li><li>c. the role of the federal courts in the evolution of federalism.</li><li>d. discussing the use of federal grant and the politics of federalism among centralists and decentralists.</li></ol>
<b>Competency 2.</b>	<b>THE STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF STATE CONSTITUTION BY:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. identifying the main characteristics of State Constitution.</li><li>b. exploring the amending process and the politics of constitutional revision.</li><li>c. analyzing the mechanics of the process of elections.</li></ol>
<b>Competency 3.</b>	<b>THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BY:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. discussing the structures and functions, powers and limitations of state legislatures.</li><li>b. describing the process of legislative modernization and reform and the practice of redistricting.</li><li>c. analyzing the types of direct legislating by the people through the initiative, the referendum and the recall.</li></ol>
<b>Competency 4.</b>	<b>THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BY:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. presenting the diverse powers and limitations of governors, including their managerial, fiscal and legislative policies.</li><li>b. discussing the functions of state-wide elected officials such as the lieutenant Governor , Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor and others.</li><li>c. describing the types of bureaucracies under the governor.</li></ol>

**Competency 5. THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE JUDICIARY BRANCH BY:**

- a. describing the diverse structures of state courts and their functions.
- b. enumerating the many ways judges are chosen, appointed, or reappointed, and analyzing the Judicial Reform movement.
- c. examining the Justice system, including juries, prosecutors, defense counsels, public defenders, victims, defendants and others.

**Competency 6. THE STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY POLITICAL SYSTEMS OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY:**

- a. discussing the forms of city governments.
- b. analyzing the functions of political bosses and machines and the development of the municipal reform movement.
- c. examining issues of civil liberties, civil rights, political conflict and public order.
- d. identifying the types of municipal officials, bureaucracies and elections.

**Competency 7. THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MAKING OF STATE AND LOCAL POLICY BY:**

- a. recognizing the different types of pressure groups and the methods used to impact policy makers.
- b. identifying the major state and local political issues and the different positions taken, including education, environment, public safety, transportation, economic development , social services, fiscal and monetary policies, and poverty.
- c. enumerating the major governmental institutions in the State of Florida and in the County of Miami-Dade.