

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Course Number: PSC-102      Class/Lect. Hours: 3      Lab Hours: 0      Credits: 3      Dept.: Political Science  
Course Title: State and Municipal Government      Semester: Fall      Year: 2018

**Course Description, Prerequisite, Corequisite:** This course introduces students to the the workings and influence of state and local governments. Students will examine the role of states in the U.S. political system, including their role as “laboratories of democracy.” This course will examine various models for how state government operates with particular attention paid to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Students will learn the dynamic processes that occur at the local level and how that affects the day-to-day operations of the municipality with a focus on budgeting and zoning regulations.

Prerequisite: None

**OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES**

Course Objectives	Competencies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop skills needed to develop objective analysis of issues in political science.</li> <li>2. Develop research and writing skills.</li> <li>3. Develop skills and experience in utilizing computer technology and new media as an academic tool.</li> <li>4. Utilize, where appropriate, quantitative data and reasoning.</li> <li>5. Develop an understanding of the workings and role of state and local governments – with a focus on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.</li> <li>6. Understand the role of state and local governments in the U.S. political system as well as their relationship to the federal</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify, analyze, and understand the workings of local and state governments (with a focus on Massachusetts).</li> <li>2. Identify, analyze, and understand the role of state and local governments in the U.S. political system – as well as the unique challenges facing local and state governments.</li> <li>3. Identify and understand the impact of federal funding on the actions of local and state governments.</li> <li>4. Identify and understand the role and impact of state constitutions, state and local laws, and other governmental agencies/departments in the political process.</li> <li>5. Identify and analyze topics such as local and state policymaking,</li> </ol>

Course Objectives	Competencies
government.	taxation, budgeting. 6. Analyze the role and influence of political parties, elections, and various “interest groups” in local and state government and politics. 7. Identify and analyze the relationships between federal, state, and local governments and how these relationships impact issues such as: crime, budgeting, funding, policy making, and laws. 8.