

## NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

### PLS 136 - STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS (3 CR.)

#### COURSE INFORMATION

State and Local Politics 136 focuses on the structures, powers, and functions of state and local governments in the United States. Particular attention will be given to Virginia and its local governments. Lecture 3 hours per week.

#### ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Ability to use English language correctly and effectively as reflected in satisfactory scores on appropriate English proficiency examination for freshman students.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To define what is political and what is not political and therefore within the scope of the discipline.
2. To improve the basic skills of citizenship.
3. To understand vocabulary and terms used in the discipline.
4. To describe the major issues of the selected topic(s) in the course, such as Home Rule, types of government, county executive form in Fairfax, VA., etc.
5. To demonstrate written and oral communication skills used in the discipline.
6. To improve one's ability to think analytically in the discipline.

#### MAJOR TOPICS

1. State and local politics: Who governs?
2. American federalism
3. State constitutions
4. Parties and elections in the states
5. State legislatures
6. State governors
7. Judges and justice
8. Local governments and metropolitics
9. State and local public policy

10. Finance and taxation