

Hello and welcome to Special Topics: Workshop in State and Local Government. I am Dr. Hosto-Martí, and I am excited that you are taking this course this semester. I look forward to working with you as we explore the institutions of the American governmental system and how institutions at the local, state, and national government work together to address the policy needs of our nation. My goal for this course is to deliver a thoughtfully planned learning experience. The course will deepen your understanding of Government and how it touches all our lives. Challenge you to develop your critical thinking ability and enhance your communication skills. I will include you in all aspects of the course, support you as a student, and motivates you to explore the course topic in depth. Welcome to the course, and I am looking forward to working with you this semester!

I look forward to learning with you over the next 8 weeks. I want you to reach out to me for further discussion of the course materials or to clarify any assignment or issue.

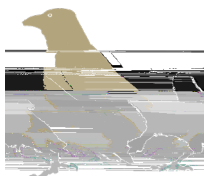
I. COURSE

College: College of Arts and Sciences **Spring 2024**

Term Start Date: January 8, 2024

Term End Date: March 3, 2024

Student Drop-in Times and Location: Virtually through Teams or Zoom by Appointment



Policy Proposal – By week 3 of the course students will identify a policy issue facing state or local government they wish to address. Students will research this policy issue and create a 3–5-page policy recommendation report. This report will address the following information.

Issue Summary

- Why is the issue important?
- Who is affected by the issue?
- What happens if this issue is not addressed?

Issue Summary

Etiquette rules are applicable to all online communications. When conducted properly, online communications should be no less in terms of quality and consideration than that which is exchanged in face-to-face or printed communications.

Suggestions for Doing Well in this Course

If you put in the effort, I am confident that you will be successful in this course! Here are a few suggestions to help you have a positive and successful learning experience:

- Familiarize yourself with our Canvas shell and check it regularly.
- Carefully read all course materials.

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 3** **January 22**
Our Three Ring Circus - Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary
READ:
Krutz Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15
- Discussion Board**
Policy Proposal Topic
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- Week 4** **January 29**
Power Players - Interest Groups, Political Parties, the Media,
and WE THE PEOPLE
READ: Krutz Chapters 6, 7, 8
- Discussion Board**
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- Week 5** **February 5**
Who Decides? - Political Parties, Elections, and Campaigns
READ:
Krutz Chapter 9
- Policy Proposal Draft 1 – Peer Review**
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- Week 6** **February 12**
Who Pays? – Budgets, Choice, and Domestic Policy
READ:
Krutz Chapter 16
- Policy Proposal Draft 2**

