

**POLS 1244**  
**Workshop in Political Science**

Instructor of Record: Dr. Robynn Kuhlmann

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Course required Reading Material: MISSOURI BOYS STATE CITIZENSHIP MANUAL or MISSOURI GIRLS STATE MANUAL, and any hand-outs and/or manuals provided in the school of instruction.

\*\*We send out notifications of eligibility via e-mail so you may want to set your spam filter so that e-mails from ucmo.edu appear in your inbox.

Course Description and Objectives:

The purpose of the class is to introduce the student to the workings of state, county and local governments. This is accomplished through a weeklong intensive educational activity consisting of lectures, guest speakers, and a practical simulation experience. The general curriculum is multifaceted. It includes instruction about local governments--city and county--and state government. The workings of these three types of government are the core of the simulation held each day of the workshop. At the outset, every student is randomly assigned to a city, which is one of two cities within a county. With the other "citizens" of the city/county, the student is instructed in the structure and functioning of municipal government, county government and state government. Each city and county is responsible for establishing a government, and once established passing city/county ordinances, creating a budget, and carrying out city/county business by applying appropriate political processes.

Students also participate in a partisan organization as part of their general instruction. Upon arrival, each student is randomly assigned to a political party (the federalists or the nationalists), and as such will participate in caucus-convention activities and vote in primaries.

Other core instructional tools are general assemblies. At general assemblies, an assortment of public officials including the Governor and other statewide officials, and other national political figures speak and answer questions about government and politics.

In addition to the general curriculum, a specific curriculum is provided to students within a selected school of instruction. There are six schools of instruction for Boys State – public administration, law, law enforcement, legislative, campaigns and political operations, and journalism. Girls State has seven schools of instruction – executive, law, law enforcement, legislative, media, international, and business. The student selects one school of instruction to attend. Throughout the week the student is given 8 hours of instruction within that specific area. Educated and experienced experts within the respective field provide this instruction. Student comprehension of the general and specific curriculum is assessed through examinations at the end of the week. Student application is assessed through participation in the simulation.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be expected to have a working knowledge of the functions of state and local governments, as well as a better understanding of how governmental authority impacts on the lives of citizens and the importance of participation in a democratic political system. More specifically the course objectives are to 1) provide knowledge of state and local government 2) instill a sense of relevance of state and local issues, 3) heighten interest and awareness of public service as a career choice, 4) provide a working knowledge of the Missouri Constitution, and 5) provide an understanding of bureaucratic hierarchy in local and state government.

Throughout the workshop students are introduced to key concepts essential to the understanding of democratic political systems. It is expected that students will develop an understanding of these ideas including, but not limited to, policy-making, civil liberties and civil rights, due process, campaigns and campaign management, the legislative process, business practices, and adjudication. Students are also given the opportunity to discuss and formulate policy positions regarding current issues such as abortion, gun control, law enforcement, and drug abuse.

**Eligibility and Grading:** Throughout the week, the core concepts and skill are developed and assessed in two ways--examination, and participation in governmental activities (simulations of local and state governments).

Completion of the following standards constitutes eligibility for college credit. In order to be awarded college credit, the student must apply in the Fall following his participation in Boys State or Girls State.

- 1) successfully complete the entire week. Students who leave the program for any reason will not be eligible for college credit.
- 2) actively participate in the academic portions of the program ( i.e. special assemblies, schools of instruction, and governmental activities). It must be evident that the student is at least attempting to be an active citizen by running for government and/or political office, seeking appointments, helping other citizens' campaign for office, serving as a reporter for one of the medias, etc. Daily newspapers, city and county reports, ballots, and reports by the counselors will be used to evaluate each citizen's participation. In addition, each student will write an essay or complete a participation chart summarizing participation and what was learned. The student must complete and submit this essay or chart and it must satisfactorily address the question and adequately demonstrate an ability to communicate in writing in order to be eligible. Participation in fitness activities is not counted toward a student's academic participation.
- 3) receive at least a 70% on all examinations.

Upon meeting the above stated criteria, the student will be contacted by the university in the Fall following the program, and be given the chance to enroll. The student may choose to enroll for two credit hours or three credit hours.

**Option I, Two Hour Credit:** All work is completed. The student must complete the enrollment process to receive a grade of "pass". Grades are recorded in the December following the program.

**Option II, Three Hour Credit:** The student must complete the enrollment process in the Fall to take this course in the Spring following the program. Each student enrolled will be expected to write a 3-5 page paper integrating the knowledge of state and local government gained through Boys State or Girls State with current Missouri government and politics; specific topics and assignment criteria will be posted on the course webpage in January. This paper will be used to determine the student's final grade for the three credit hour course<sup>1</sup>. Student essays will be evaluated based upon completeness and content (knowledge and understanding of subject, explanation and justification of arguments, and depth of analysis), and general presentation of the material including organization, grammar, citation, and clarity. Papers are due in April, and grades recorded in May.

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<sup>1</sup> The student's successful completion of Boys State or Girls State ensures the student a minimum grade of D, but the paper will be used to determine grades of A, B, C, D.

## Activity Schedule

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Option I</b>	<b>Option II</b>
Attend Program	June 2021	June 2021
Eligibility determined, university contacts students to enroll	Beginning August 6, 2021	Beginning August 6, 2021
Enrollments Due	September 3, 2021	November 1, 2021
Students receive course webpage access information	N/A	December 10, 2021
2 Hour credit closes, grades submitted	December 14 2021	N/A
Spring class opens, course webpage available	N/A	January 10, 2022
Paper due	N/A	April 8, 2022
3 Hour Credit class closes, grades submitted	N/A	May 10, 2022