I. POLITICAL SCIENCE

POS 2112, State and Local Government: ***(Prerequisite: Appropriate test scores in reading and writing)*** **An** in-depth student of the structure, functions, and responsibilities of state and local government executives, legislatures, and judicial officials in the context of a diverse culture. This is designated diversity infused course.

SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

If you are participating in Service Learning for extra credit in this class, you may complete *either* or *both* of the following options:

Option 1: Service Learning Extra Credit

For **three points** of extra credit on the final grade, students must:

- complete 15 hours of volunteering at an approved site
- complete paperwork with the Center for Service Learning
- turn in a 3 page (750 word) typewritten journal detailing his or her experience (see description below).

If requirements are partially fulfilled, partial credit or no credit may be assigned, at the discretion of the instructor.

Option 2: Fourth Credit Option

For an extra hour of elective credit in social science, students must:

- register for the class POS 2948 80M and pay tuition for one credit hour
- complete 20 hours of volunteering at an approved site
- complete paperwork with the Center for Service Learning
- participate in a mid-semester seminar on the Service Learning experience
- turn in a 5 page (1250 word) typewritten journal for a grade.
- Make a brief class presentation on your experience

If requirements are only partially fulfilled, the student's grade for the fourth credit (which is factored into the GPA like any other grade) will reflect the deficiency.

Guidelines for writing a Service Learning Journal:

Journal must be typewritten
Minimum 750 words for extra credit
Minimum 1250 words for Fourth Credit Option
*If completing both extra credit and FCO, one journal of 1250 words will fulfill requirements
May use informal tone and first person ("I"); no footnotes or other documentation necessary

1. Begin by describing your volunteer site. Is it a government agency, a nonprofit, or a political campaign? If it is a government, what level is it (national, state, or local)? What branch

(legislative, executive, judicial)? Who is in charge of the organization? What is its mission (providing counseling, educating children, inspecting factories, etc.)?

2. Next, describe what you were asked to do. What were your assigned responsibilities? Describe your typical day. Were you busy, or was the pace relaxed? Did you interact with the public? You might want to describe some interesting or funny experiences you had while volunteering.

3. Assess whether the agency is doing a good job. If you are volunteering with the police force, for instance, assess whether the department is effectively enforcing the law. If you are working for a politician, critique his or her performance in office or on the campaign. If you could change one thing about the agency, what would you change?

4. Finally, reflect on what you got out of the experience. For some, the volunteer experience influences career choice, awareness of an issue, or political opinions. Did your experience have an effect on you?

Journals may be turned in through the last day of class (NOT finals week). Please see me with any questions.