Despite all the media attention that is devoted to national politics, many of the most important political decisions are not made in Washington, D.C. Education, law enforcement, environmental protection, zoning, welfare, taxation, transportation, public behavior are among the types of public policy issues that most often touch our lives on a day-to-day basis. They are also the issues that historically have been governed by state and local governments.

This course looks at the changing role of state and local governments. It analyzes the relationship between the states and the federal government from the founding of the nation to the present. It explains the character of state and local politics, and how these governments work. It also explores many of the important trends in politics at both levels, from the rise of professional politicians to the character of election campaigns.

**LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIPS AND CAPSTONE**

This class is recommended for students who are interested in working as interns in the state capital through the Engaging Democracy Capstone in winter and spring quarters 2015.

**PUBLIC SERVICE MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

This class is required for students who are majoring in the Public Service Track in Political Science

For more information, contact Richard Clucas at hprc@pdx.edu