COURSE NAME: State and Local Government
COURSE NUMBER: Law 770

PROFESSOR: Stephen J. Moore

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Completed First Year

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Constitutional Law; Legislation; Land Use

COURSE BOOKS:


RECOMMENDED: Local Government Handbook; Local Government Nutshell

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Final examination. Student grades may be raised or reduced for exceptional, good or poor class performance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: Structure, powers, and divisions of local governments in metropolitan areas; role and powers of cities, counties, towns, school and special districts; decentralized and neighborhood government units and other local governmental units; legislative, home-rule, and constitutional sources of power; sovereign immunity; boundary adjustments; public employee relations; citizen participation; reapportionment; ethics and public access to records; regional governance and intergovernmental cooperation; inter-state compacts and authorities; function of local government with reference to solution of problems created by urban growth; role of judicial, administrative, and political processes.

COURSE CONTENT: Students will be introduced to the functioning, authority, obligations, structure and formation of governmental units (states, countries, cities, and special districts) in our federal system. There will be particular emphasis on analysis of municipal problems.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSED: Overview course for students interested in practicing in municipal law or representing governmental units.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION: No direct relevancy. However, field of municipal law requires resolution of federal and state constitutional issues and federalism as well as more ordinary but important issues relating to, labor law, contract law, land use law, statutory construction and interpretation, and taxation and finance, and governmental liability.