

**Core Curriculum
Course Proposal Cover Sheet**

Department Social Sciences
College COLFA
Department Head Malcolm Cross

Course Prefix & Number POLS 201
Course Title American National Government
Course Description A study of the U.S. constitution, as well as the major political institutions and processes that constitute American National Politics.

Please select the THECB Foundational Component Area for which this course is being submitted. (Please select only one)

Government/Political Science ([download forms](#))

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**GOVERNMENT/POLITICAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA JUSTIFICATION FORM**

Rationale: This course emphasizes critical thinking and communication skills, as well as social and personal responsibility. It teaches students the constitutional foundations of American National Government, as well as the processes and institutions that compose American politics. Finally, it relates the political issues impacting American government to those affecting the broader global community.

Government/Political Science (from THECB Chapter 4: 4.28)

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas.

Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility and Personal Responsibility.

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME ALIGNMENT FORM
Government/Political Science

Course Prefix/Number: POLS 201

Course Title: Introduction to American National Government

Core Objective: Critical Thinking CT1: Students will evaluate evidence in analysis, interpretation or arguments

Course SLO(s): (1) Students analyze the fundamental forces behind key outcomes in American Politics. (2) Students formulate and assess analytically hypotheses about the U.S. Constitution as well as American politics and institutions

Learning Activities: Classroom lectures, reading and video assignments, and classroom discussions

Means of Assessment: Embedded questions in selected tests

Core Objective: Critical Thinking CT2: Students will synthesize varied components of information to form a rational conclusion.

Course SLO(s): Students use empirical evidence to assess the validity of alternate explanations of American Political behavior.

Learning Activities: Classroom lectures, assigned readings and video, classroom discussions

Means of Assessment: Embedded questions in selected tests

Core Objective: Communication C1: Students will express ideas in written, visual or oral forms to a range of diverse audiences in multiple settings.

Course SLO(s): (1) Students will demonstrate an ability to provide clear written analyses of key political issues and concepts, in American politics, (2) students will demonstrate an ability to communicate clearly and effectively in oral form regarding key political issues and ideas in American politics and government.

Learning Activities: Classroom discussions, oral presentations, written essays, and term papers

Means of Assessment: Faculty observation using a departmental rubric

Core Objective: Social Responsibility SR2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of civic responsibilities and duties

Course SLO(s): (1) Students will demonstrate an understanding of alternate views of social responsibility in the context of American political behavior, (2) Students will demonstrate an understanding of concrete civic duties appropriate for both citizens and civic leaders in the American Political system

Learning Activities: Classroom lectures, discussion, student presentations

Means of Assessment: Embedded questions in selected exams

Core Objective: Personal Responsibility PR1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical standards as applied to decision-making.

Course SLO(s): Students analyze the ethical standards demonstrated by different national political actors at key points in American political history.

Learning Activities: Classroom lecture, discussions, and student presentations

Means of Assessment: Embedded questions in selected exams.

Additional objectives at the discretion of the department.

Core Objective: Knowledge of Core Concepts in American Government

Course SLO(s): Students will demonstrate an understanding of the core concepts used by Political Scientists to analyze American Politics.

Learning Activities: Classroom lectures, discussion, student presentations

Means of Assessment: Embedded questions in selected exams, and faculty observation using a departmental rubric

As department head, I will ensure that all faculty that teach this course are aware of the requirements that these core objectives and learning strategies be incorporated into the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

Signature__Malcolm Cross_____

We, the undersigned faculty, support the proposed changes to this course and agree to incorporate them into our section of the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

Barry Price
Larry Margolis
Dean Minix
Jeff Justice