Core Curriculum Course Submission
Criteria: US History/Traditions

1. General Information

a. Originating Person	b. Contact Person's E-mail	c. Contact Phone	d. Date
Joseph Giammo	jdgiammo@ualr.edu	(501)569-3331	04/15/2014

e. College/School	f. Department/Program
College of Social Sciences & Communications	Political Science

☒ **Submission Statement**
By submitting this form, we acknowledge our understanding that the Core Council has the authority to review approved courses to ensure they continue to meet the established goals and outcomes of that category of the core; that the Council has authority to develop a core assessment program; and that the Council will be developing review and assessment policies by the end of 2014. Further, we agree that if this course is approved, we will participate in the university-wide assessment of the core.

☒ **Chair and Dean Awareness**
Your department chairperson and college dean must be made aware of your submission for core. By submitting this form, you are acknowledging that this has occurred.

2. Course Information

a. Course ID	b. Current Title
POLS 1310	American National Government

c. Catalog Description

An introduction to the political institutions, processes, and patterns of the national government of the United States, focusing on the Congress, presidency, and courts, and on their interrelationships. Attention is given to suffrage and elections, political parties, interest groups, and public opinion. Significant issues and problems of national policy such as civil rights and civil liberties are considered. Three credit hours. (ACTS Course Number PLSC 2003)

d. How will your department ensure a level of consistency among sections of this course? Who will be responsible for this?

The department chair will share information about the core criteria for this course with all faculty teaching it and review syllabi and textbook selections for all sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, all faculty (including adjunct instructors) participate in a peer review process within the department.

Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Knowledge 1 – The concepts, methodologies, findings, and applications of mathematics and the social and natural sciences, engineering and technology..	1. develop a foundational knowledge of the U. S. constitution;	**Learning Objectives 1.1** discuss and analyze major sections of the Constitution.	**Assignments 1.1** This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of the Constitution and will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	**Explanation 1.1** Faculty members will assign students to read the U.S. Constitution, discuss specific sections and their implications in class, and require students to write about what they have learned through exams or other written assignments.
	2.a develop a foundational knowledge of historical information such as names, dates events, terms, and concepts in U.S. history; and b. understand the diversity and complexity of the historical contexts that shape the U.S. experience; **or**	**Learning Objectives 1.2** **n/a**	**Assignments 1.2** **n/a**	**Explanation 1.2** **n/a**
	3. a. develop a foundational knowledge of the structures, powers, and limitations of U.S. national government institutions; and b. understand the decision and policy making processes within and among the branches of the federal government;	**Learning Objectives 1.3** a. describe the structures of the three branches of government, their powers, and the limitations placed on them by the Constitution. **b.** describe and analyze the way that different types of policy (economic, domestic, and foreign) is made and the major influences on decision makers in the federal government.	**Assignments 1.3** a. This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions and will be assessed through exams, essays, research papers, or other written assignments. **b.** This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions and will be assessed through exams, essays, research papers, or other written assignments.	**Explanation 1.3** a. Over the course of the semester, faculty members will assign readings and lead class discussions about the powers, roles, and limitations of each of the three branches of government, as well as about the interactions of those branches. Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the material through exams or other written assignments. **b.** Over the course of the semester, faculty members will assign readings and

				lead class discussions about the decision-making process in the federal government. Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the material through exams or other written assignments.
Educational Goals	**Learning Outcomes students will...**	**Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...**	**Assignments**	**Explanation**
Skills 1 – Communication	1. communicate using language appropriate to the discipline, orally and in writing;	**Learning Objectives 1.1** discuss issues of politics and government using language appropriate to political science, both orally and in writing.	**Assignments 1.1** This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments about the course materials, about current events, and/or about other issues in American politics. Students will be required to write about such issues, either on exams or through other assignments and will receive feedback from faculty on their writing skills.	**Explanation 1.1** Faculty members will lead student discussions and assign students to write about a variety of issues related to American government and will provide feedback to students on their communications skills.
Educational Goals	**Learning Outcomes students will...**	**Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...**	**Assignments**	**Explanation**
Skills 2 – Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, and Solving Problems Individually and Collaboratively	1. use appropriate methods of inquiry to analyze sources and ask questions appropriate to the discipline;	**Learning Objectives 2.1** analyze and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various sources of information.	**Assignments 2.1** This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments about the course materials, covering issues such as ideology, framing, and bias. Students will be required to discuss the merits of various sources in class discussions and through exams and/or other written assignments.	**Explanation 2.1** Discussions of topics such as the media, interest groups, public opinion, political parties, election campaigns, and controversial political issues necessarily involve a discussion of the ways in which information is presented by various sources and the types of biases which are likely to be present in them.

	2. find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize primary and secondary sources to reach conclusions;	**Learning Objectives 2.2** analyze primary sources (such as the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and Supreme Court decisions), as well as writings about these documents.	**Assignments 2.2** This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of various founding documents and will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	**Explanation 2.2** Faculty members will assign students to read primary documents, such as the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and excerpts from the Federalist Papers, as well as secondary sources discussing these documents. Students will discuss these documents and their implications in class, and be required to demonstrate what they have learned through exams or other written assignments.
	3. support ideas with empirical evidence and reach conclusions based on that evidence;	**Learning Objectives- 2.3** support arguments about the role of government, specific policies, or other current issues using empirical evidence.	**Assignments- 2.3** This learning objective will be met through class discussions and written assignments requiring students to make arguments about relevant issues.	**Explanation-Skills 2.3** Faculty members will lead discussions in class in which students will be required to make arguments about issues related to American government. Students will also be required to make such arguments in written assignments such as exams, essays, or research papers.
Educational Goals	**Learning Outcomes students will...**	**Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...**	**Assignments**	**Explanation**
Skills 3 – Information Technology	1. use appropriate technological resources to find appropriate primary and secondary sources;	**Learning Objectives 3.1** use appropriate technologies to find a variety of sources, including primary documents, advocacy pieces, news articles, and academic papers on government and politics.	**Assignments 3.1** This learning objective will be met through assignments such as essays, research papers, and oral presentations.	**Explanation 3.1** These types of assignments will require students to gather appropriate supporting materials using current technologies relevant in the field.

Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Values 1 – Personal Responsibility and Ethical Behavior	1. develop commitment to academic integrity and take responsibility for completing assignments in an ethical manner, working on one's own when required and acknowledging resources when used;	**Learning Objectives 1.1** appropriately cite materials and adhere to the UALR Code of Student Conduct.	**Assignments 1.1** This learning objective will be met through exams, essays, research papers, or other written and/or oral assignments.	**Explanation 1.1** Students will be expected to do all of their own work in the course and to provide proper citations for all sources used in written and/or oral assignments.
	2. recognize the value of and demonstrate respect for diverse points of view;	**Learning Objectives 1.2** engage in respectful discussions about controversial issues with individuals who disagree with them and analyze multiple perspectives on political issues.	**Assignments 1.2** This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments.	**Explanation 1.2** The nature of the course is such that controversial issues are frequently discussed. Faculty will ensure that such discussions take place in a respectful manner that allows for the participation of individuals with differing viewpoints. Additionally, written assignments will require students to analyze multiple perspectives on political issues.
	3 appreciate value of civility for democratic government;	**Learning Objectives-Values 1.3** understand the importance of civil discourse in political discussions.	**Assignments-Values 1.3** This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments.	**Explanation-Values 1.3** The nature of the course is such that controversial issues are frequently discussed. Faculty will ensure that such discussions take place in a respectful manner and that allows for the participation of individuals with differing viewpoints. Additionally, written assignments will require students to analyze multiple perspectives on political issues.

	4 understand the normative foundations of the state, the scope of its activities, and the nature of justice;	**Learning Objectives-Values 1.4** analyze normative questions about the role of the state and its activities.	**Assignments-Values 1.4** This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions and will be assessed through exams, essays, research papers, or other written assignments.	**Explanation-Values 1.4** The course material includes discussions about thing such as the role of the state, its powers and limitations, and the rights of citizens. Students will participate in class discussions about these types of issues and will have to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and controversies surrounded them on exams or through other written assignments.
Educational Goals	**Learning Outcomes students will...**	**Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...**	**Assignments**	**Explanation**
Values 2 – Civic Responsibility	1. understand roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship	**Learning Objectives 2.1** discuss the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship in the American political system.	**Assignments 2.1** This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of the Constitution, elections, participation, public opinion, civil rights, civil liberties, and other relevant issues and will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	**Explanation 2.1** This is a major focus of the entire class and will be reflected in class discussions, exams, essays, and other written assignments throughout the course.

Additional Comments:

Belinda Bleiwas-Knabe
Approved by Core Curriculum Committee

5-14-14
Date

Approved by Provost

5/23/2014
Date

Anderson
Approved by Chancellor

5/28/14
Date