



## Background

- This CCN Course Template was developed by political science discipline faculty representatives from the California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California segments during June and July 2024 using the C-ID POLS 110 descriptor as a starting point.
- Development of the CCN Course Template was facilitated by ASCCC with advisory input from segment articulation officers and transfer experts.
- Approved and Submitted to the Chancellor's Office: August 15, 2024
- Template was modified by CCN in late September. Content was not altered.

## Phase I CCN TEMPLATE

<b>Subject:</b> Political Science	<b>Subject Code:</b> POLS
<b>Proposed Course Number</b> (Identical): C1000	
<b>Proposed Course Specialty Identifier</b> (if applicable):	
<b>Course Title</b> (Identical): American Government and Politics	
<b>Catalog/Course Description</b> (Identical):  <b>Part 1:</b> (Identical and Required): This course is an introduction to government and politics in the United States and California. Students examine the constitutions, structure, and operation of governing institutions, civil liberties and civil rights, political behaviors, political issues, and public policy using political science theory and methodology.	



**PHASE 1 CCN TEMPLATE**

Developed by CCN Workgroup,  
Based on CCN Task Force Recommendations  
Date: 9-27-2024

**Part 2:** (Optional Expanded Description, Local College Discretion):

*This will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory with further instructions to come.*

**Cal-GETC**

- Yes
- No

**Cal-GETC Area**

Area 4 Recommend

**Major Preparation:**

- Yes
- No

**List Possible Relevant Majors**

- This is not a binding requirement; this is a placeholder for Phase II and may include TMC/ADT in the future.

**UCTCA:**

- Yes
- No

**Minimum Unit Threshold | Semester 3.0**

Unit amounts must adhere to the established threshold minimum.

Units for this course may be any combination of lecture/lab to meet student needs.

*Any Rationale or Comment:*

**Prerequisites** (Identical):

**Co-Requisites** (Identical):

**Other Limitations on Enrollment** (Determined locally):



**Advisories/Recommended Preparation** (Determined locally):

**Course Content:**

**Part 1:** Required Topics (Identical):

1. The purpose of government and nature of democratic governance
  - a. Political philosophies that underlie democratic government
  - b. Comparison of representative and direct democracy
  - c. The value of, influences on, and consequences of participation and non-participation in democratic government
2. The U.S. and California Constitutions as frameworks for government
  - a. Political philosophies of the framers and critics of the U.S. Constitution
  - b. Processes for amending and interpreting the U.S. and California Constitutions
3. The theory and practice of federalism in the United States, focusing on California
  - a. The framework and operation of federal, state, and local relations
  - b. Interaction between the federal government and Native American tribes and entities
4. The structure and contemporary operations of federal, state, and local governing institutions in the United States and California including the
  - a. Executive branch
  - b. Legislative branch
  - c. Judicial branch
5. Civil liberties and civil rights of individuals and groups
  - a. Civil liberties and rights as articulated in the U.S. and California Constitutions and federal and state court decisions
  - b. Contemporary and historical interactions between government and marginalized populations within the United States based on factors such as race, ethnicity, sex, gender and gender expression, sexual orientation, class, ability status, age, citizenship status, language, religion, and/or other forms of identity
6. Individual and group behaviors within the context of the U.S. and California constitutions, including
  - a. Elections, campaigns, and voting
  - b. Political parties
  - c. Interest groups
  - d. Social movements
7. Factors that shape politics and policymaking including
  - a. Political culture



- b. Political socialization
  - c. Political ideologies
  - d. Public opinion
  - e. Media
- 8. Political issues and public policies
  - a. Domestic
  - b. Economic
  - c. Foreign
- 9. Introductory research methods used in political science including
  - a. qualitative tools and techniques
  - b. quantitative tools and techniques

**Part 2: Optional Expanded or Additional Topics (optional):**

*This will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory with further instructions to come.*

**Laboratory Activities:** (if applicable)

**Course Objectives** (Identical and Required):

**Part 1: Objectives/Outcomes** (Identical and Required):

*At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to: (Identical and Required)*

1. Explain the founding and development of the U.S. and California Constitution.
2. Critique governing institutions and political processes within the United States and California.
3. Employ introductory political science research methods to contextualize contemporary political issues and operations in the United States and California
4. Assess civil liberties and civil rights of individuals and groups as articulated in the U.S. and California Constitutions and subsequent court decisions.
5. Investigate the role of identity and political ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California.
6. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the national, state, county, and/or city levels.



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**Part 2: Optional objectives/outcomes:**

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**Part 2: After this course, the student should be able to (Optional):**

*This will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory with further instructions to come.*

**Methods of Evaluation:**

**Part 1:** Examples of potential methods of evaluation used to observe or measure students' achievement of course outcomes and objectives could include but are not limited to quizzes, exams, essays, field journals, projects, critical analysis papers, service learning, simulations, research demonstrations, etc. Methods of evaluation and appropriate representative assignments will be determined at the discretion of local faculty.

**Part 2: List Methods of Evaluation (Optional):**

*This will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory with further instructions to come.*

**Representative Texts, Manuals, and/or OER that is equivalent, Other Support Materials:**

**Part 1:** Any college-level introduction to American government and politics textbook including, but not limited to:

Patterson. 2024. *We the People*. 15th ed.



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Date: 8-15-2024

Krutz and Waskiewicz. 2024. *American Government 3e. OpenStax* (OER)

Sidlow and Henschen. GOVT 12: Principles of American Government. 2025

Reti. 2023. Introduction to California Government and Politics. (OER)

Van Vechten. 2021. California Politics: A Primer.

May also include supplementary materials such as, but not limited to, primary sources (e.g. *The Federalist Papers*), readers, etc.

**Part 2:** List Sample Textbooks, Manuals, or Other Support Materials (optional):

*This will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory with further instructions to come.*

**Date Approved:** August 15, 2024, following ASCCC facilitation of template development process, including engagement of faculty discipline representatives from California Community Colleges, CSU, UC and independent colleges and universities and advisory input from segment articulation officers and transfer experts.