

## All In Action Plan

### **College of Staten Island/CUNY - Core 100 Program**

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November 2, 2018

Core 100 was established 20 years ago at the College of Staten Island/CUNY and this required American Civics course has never been more important than it is now in 2018! We are very proud of the program and its 30+ faculty members who work so incredibly hard to serve our 2500+ students (almost all incoming freshmen) each semester.

#### **COR 100: United States: Issues, Ideas, and Institutions** (3 hours; 3 credits)

Course Description: COR 100 is a required general education course that introduces CSI students to contemporary America's constitutional democracy, multiracial society, and market economy, using the tools of the social sciences. The course seeks historical perspective by examining three formative periods in U.S. history: the American Revolution and debate over the Constitution, the African American freedom struggle from slavery through the civil rights movement, and the evolving relationship between government regulation and the market economy during the 20th century. The course is writing intensive and is intended to develop logical, critical thought and expression.

Course Goals & Objectives: Nearly every college and university in the United States approaches undergraduate education in the same way: first, a broad introduction to the ways modern men and women grapple with the great questions of life through the physical, biological, and social sciences, the arts, and the humanities, and then specialized training in a major field.

This approach is based on a conviction that professional training by itself does not constitute an education, since an educated person is one who forms the habit of seeking the underlying explanation of things and of questioning conventional assumptions to see if they rest on a firm foundation of fact and logic. This frame of mind is the goal of what we call liberal arts general education, and it is also the goal of Core 100, which is an important part of general education at the College of Staten Island.

#### Curriculum Mandates:

1. What is constitutional democracy, and how does it function in the United States? Specifically, what is the structure and philosophy of the Constitution of the United States?
2. What are the historical causes of racial inequality in the United States, and how has American democracy tried to achieve racial justice? Specifically, how have American ideas on race changed from slavery to the civil rights movement, and how have these ideas expanded to include other forms of social injustice involving other minorities and women?
3. What is a market economy, and how have American tried to achieve a balance between government regulation of the economy and the freedom of individuals to make their own economic decisions? Specifically, trace the controversy over government intervention in the economy from the New Deal through to the present.

### Mid-Term Election/Voting Plan for Fall 2018 Semester

- Each week Core 100 provides seven large group lectures where 6-8 Core sections gather for lectures presented by a different Core instructor each week. The lectures are constructed so that students can connect the content being taught in the individual classrooms to current events.
- This fall the Core program committed itself to preparing students for voting in the mid-term elections, including partnering with NYPIRG on its voter registration drive to ensure that every student who was eligible to vote was registered to do so.
- A total of 49 lectures were presented on a variety of topics (listed below) and will culminate in pre-election lectures the week prior to Election Day, and post-election lectures after the election to provide analysis of the results.
- The Core program expanded the current events theme of its lectures to include both Democratic and Republican party positions on some of the most important issues facing voters in the midterm elections, including:
  - The Need for Civil Discourse In An Era of Polarization
  - The Importance of the Mid-term Elections
  - The Impeachment Process
  - Social Justice and Constitutional Democracy in Everyday Life
  - Immigration Reform
  - Sanctuary Cities
  - America and the Gun/Second Amendment
  - Why State & Local Elections Matter
  - Tax Policy (tax cut)
  - Confirmation Hearing of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court
  - Judicial Philosophy and the Supreme Court
  - MeToo movement
  - Black Lives Matter
  - Liberal vs. Conservative/Democrat vs. Republican (political party identification)
  - Foreign Policy (North Korea & Iran)
  - Trade Policy (China & NAFTA)
- Each lecture reserved time for students to ask question, and to share their thoughts and opinions. This space provided opportunity to model civil discourse and respect when debating differing points of view.