

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2005
 PROGRAM AREA POLS

1. Catalog Description of the Course. *[Follow accepted catalog format.]*

Prefix POLS **Course#** 335 **Title** POLITICS AND FILM **Units** (3)

4 hours Lecture/Discussion **per week**

- Prerequisites
- Corequisites

Description

POLS 335. POLITICS AND FILM (3)

Two hours lecture and two hours activity per week.

Explores the themes, issues and processes of politics through an in depth study of selected films. Area of focus varies by semester.

GenEd: Interdisciplinary

SAME AS COMM 335

COMM 335. POLITICS AND FILM (3)

Two hours lecture and two hours activity per week.

Explores the themes, issues and processes of politics through an in depth study of selected films. Area of focus varies by semester.

GenEd: Interdisciplinary

SAME AS POLS 335

- Gen Ed
- CR/NC
- Repeatable for up to 6 units
- Categories UD INT
- Lab Fee Required
- A - F
- Total Completions Allowed 2
- Optional (Student's choice)
- Multiple Enrollment in same semester

2. Mode of Instruction.

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment	Graded Component	CS # (filled in by Dean)
Lecture	2	1	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Seminar	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Activity	1	2	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course. (Indicate whether required or elective, and whether it meets University Writing, and/or Language requirements) *[Use as much space as necessary]*

Justification: More than any other art form, motion pictures reach a mass audience. American films of the twentieth century dealt with political issues in a wide variety of settings and contexts, and millions have been exposed to the ideas, images, and emotions contained in these films. A major theme of the course will be the repeated depiction in Hollywood films of government plagued by corrupt individuals and decayed institutions. Other themes to be explored include: the consistent focus on the individual rather than the group, the rejection of ideological extremism, the need for a "happy ending" and the use of dramatic license when interpreting factual events. This course may be taught in a variety of ways depending on the expertise of the instructor. The emphasis may be altered to emphasize an international focus, the politics of a country besides the United States or a political issue as it has been portrayed in film -- terrorism or the presidency for example.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

(Press enter for the next bulleted item)

- identify and discuss the major works of political film of the 20th century

- discuss the the ideas presented in motion pictures and distinguish facts from perspectives
- discuss the portrayals of race, gender, class and alternative lifestyles as they are depicted in film
- write clearly about film as an art form and a method of communication
- view and critique films based on an understanding of the institutions and processes of government and politics
- discuss the influence of pop culture and the entertainment industry on political beliefs and participation

4. Is this a General Education Course YES NO

If Yes, indicate GE category and attach GE Criteria Form:

- A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)**
- A-1 Oral Communication
- A-2 English Writing
- A-3 Critical Thinking
- B (Mathematics, Sciences & Technology)**
- B-1 Physical Sciences
- B-2 Life Sciences – Biology
- B-3 Mathematics – Mathematics and Applications
- B-4 Computers and Information Technology
- C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)**
- C-1 Art
- C-2 Literature Courses
- C-3a Language
- C-3b Multicultural
- D (Social Perspectives)**
- E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)**
- UD Interdisciplinary**

5. **Course Content in Outline Form.** *[Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary]*
(Press enter for the next bulleted item)

- Film analysis and study
- Politicians and politics in American Film
- The Everyman meets the morally bankrupt government
- The Depression, class struggle and literary adaptation
- The American response to "isms"
- Power corrupts
- The Business of Hollywood
- The corrosive influence of television
- Pursuit of power corrupts
- Investigative journalism: reporter as hero
- Movements: women, labor, civil rights and the environment
- Conspiracy theories and the fictionalization of politics
- Liberal response to the Reagan/Bush years
- The manipulative media
- Film and the complex character of Bill Clinton

Films to be screened:

The Player (Altman 1992)
 Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Capra 1939)
 The Grapes of Wrath (Ford 1940)
 Meet John Doe (Capra 1941)
 All the King's Men (Rossen 1949)
 A Face in the Crowd (Kazan 1957)
 The Candidate (Ritchie 1972)
 All the President's Men (Pakula 1972)
 Norma Rae (Ritt 1979)
 JFK (Stone 1991)
 Bob Roberts (Robbins 1992)
 Wag the Dog (Levinson 1998)
 Primary Colors (Nichols 1998)
 The War Room (Pennebaker and Hegedus 1993)
 Fahrenheit 911 (Moore 2004)

Note: this outline is for a class emphasizing American Politics and film; the course may also be structured to focus on other subfields of the discipline.

Does this course overlap a course offered in your academic program? YES NO
 If YES, what course(s) and provide a justification of the overlap?

Does this course overlap a course offered in another academic area? YES NO
 If YES, what course(s) and provide a justification of the overlap?
 Signature of Academic Chair of the other academic area is required on the consultation sheet below.

6. Cross-listed Courses (Please fill out separate form for each PREFIX)

List Cross-listed Courses

COMM

Signature of Academic Chair(s) of the other academic area(s) is required on the consultation sheet below

Department responsible for staffing: POLS

7. References. *[Provide 3 - 5 references on which this course is based and/or support it.]*
(Press enter for the next number)

1. Combs, James E. 1990. American Political Movies. (NY: Garland Press)
2. Christensen, Terry. 1987. Reel Politics (NY: Basil Blackwell, Inc.)
3. Dick, Bernard F. 1998. Anatomy of Film. (NY: St Martins Press)
4. Edelman, Murray. 1995. From Art to Politics: How Artistic Creations Shape Political Conceptions. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
5. Gianos, Phillip L. 1998. Politics and Politicians in American Film. (Westport, CT: Praeger)

8. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Scott A. Frisch
Political Science Faculty

9. Frequency.

a. Projected semesters to be offered: Fall Spring Summer

10. New Resources Required. YES NO

If YES, list the resources needed and obtain signatures from the appropriate programs/units on the consultation sheet below.

- a. Computer (data processing), audio visual, broadcasting needs, other equipment)
- b. Library needs
- c. Facility/space needs

11. Will this new course alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program? YES NO

If, YES attach a program modification form for all programs affected.

Scott A. Frisch

Proposer of Course

9/20/2005

Date