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

Prefix POLS  Course# 431  Title EDUCATION POLICY AND POLITICS  Units (3)
3 hours  lecture per week
hours  lecture per week
Prerequisites POLS 150 for POLS students or consent of instructor
Corequisites
Description
POLS 431:
Examines the roles of political institutions in education policy making, the political factors that shape policy formulation and implementation, the values and assumptions of different types of policies, and the links between policy and local-level implementation. Analyzes current and pending policies' effect on schools and classrooms to illustrate how education policy reflects American politics.

EDUC 431:
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Graded
Gen Ed
Categories D, UDIGE
Lab Fee Required
A - F
Total Completions Allowed
Optional (Student’s choice)
Multiple Enrollment in same semester

2. Mode of Instruction.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Hours per Unit</th>
<th>Benchmark Enrollment</th>
<th>Graded Component</th>
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<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>Seminar</td>
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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]
This is a GE course and an elective in the Master of Arts in Education

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
1. discuss and evaluate the institutional structure and processes of the major national, state, and local political institutions pertaining to education policy;
2. analyze the interaction between the various institutions;
3. discuss how political factors shape policy formulation and implementation;
4. analyze and discuss the values and assumptions that underlie different policy designs;
5. analyze and discuss the links between policy and education practice using a current or pending policy as a case study;
6. critically analyze how American educational political institutions have responded to demands for access and participation for minorities, including students from diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and ability backgrounds;

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 ☐
5. **Course Content in Outline Form.** *Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary*

General course outline:
1. What is education policy?

2. Policy formulation: The actors and institutions

3. Policy formulation: The role of courts and interest groups

4. The sources and instruments of education policy

5. The competing goals of education policy

6. The link between policy and practice

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(s) of the other academic area(s) is required on the signature sheet below.

6. **Cross-listed Courses (Please fill out separate form for each PREFIX)**
List Cross-listed Courses
Education; Political Science
Signature of Academic Chair(s) of the other academic area(s) is required on the signature sheet below.

Department responsible for staffing: Education and Political Science may alternate

7. **References.** *Provide 3 - 5 references on which this course is based and/or support it.*
The course references will include main chapters from the following literature on education policy and politics. In addition, articles from peer review journals and the Education Week, pertaining to the current topics covered in class, will be provided on Electronic Coursepack.


8. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Scott Frisch, Dan Wakelee, Tiina Itkonen and other Political Science and Education Faculty

   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 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.
Request for GE Approval

Course Title
POLS 431 EDUCATION POLICY AND POLITICS

Units 3
Lab No
New Yes

GE Category D Social Perspectives
Submitter Itkonen, Tiina
Submission Date 10-03-2006
Status Approved

Criteria Justifications Edit

- Promote understanding of how the issues relevant to social, political, contemporary/historical, economic, educational or psychological realities interact with each other within the realm of human experience

POLITICAL: The course analyzes how political institutions (state and federal legislature, executive level, judiciary, and local level administration) shape educational practice at the local level.
HISTORY: The course also examines how the history within these institutions has impacted educational practice (e.g., Brown versus Board of Education; passage of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).
ECONOMICS: One of the course's analytical topics is school vouchers. This topic examines educational choice using theories of economics.

- Focus on how a social science discipline conceives and studies human existence

This course is grounded on the social sciences of political science and education policy. It systematically teaches policy analysis integrating these two disciplines, and the impact of education politics and policy on state and local level implementation--what happens in schools and individual classrooms.

- Address issues using the methods commonly employed by a social science discipline
Policy analysis (Weimer & Vining; Stone); Critical reading and thinking; Data interpretation (quantitative and qualitative); Using search engines such as Thomas and Lexis Nexis to follow court cases and pending bills

GE
Category
UDIGE Upper Division Interdisciplinary
GE

Status
Approved

Criteria Justifications

- Emphasize interdisciplinarity by integrating content, ideas, and approaches from two or more disciplines

  This course integrated political science and education both in content and approaches.

  Scott, Dan and Tiina met this past Summer to talk about developing this course. Scott and I have talked about it ever since I was hired. The three of us talked about how we should structure the course (i.e., have current topics that can be examined from the framework). I was then asked to take the lead on writing up the course, which I did. I sent drafts etc to Scott and Dan and got their feedback.

- Include substantive written work consisting of in-class writing as well as outside class writing of revised prose. Examples of appropriate written work include: short papers, long papers, term papers, lab reports, documentation, disciplinary-based letters and memos, and essays.

  Student work will include:
  1. term papers: research an educational policy topic in depth and write a policy analysis paper on it
including, but not limited to, problem definition, competing proposals, policy instruments, solutions, impact)
2. letters (to teach how to write to your elected representative; local school board member);
3. op-ed piece
Approval Sheet
Program/Course: POLS 431

______________________________    ________________
Program Chair(s)                Date

______________________________    ________________
General Education Chair(s)       Date

______________________________    ________________
Curriculum Committee Chair(s)    Date

______________________________    ________________
Dean of Faculty                  Date