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

Prefix POLS  Course# 300  Title POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS  Units (3)
3 hours Lecture per week
☐ Prerequisites SOC/PSYC 203
☐ Corequisites

Description Introduction to research methods commonly used in political science. Topics include: research design, literature reviews, measurement and observation. Covers quantitative as well as qualitative methods of inquiry.

☐ Gen Ed  ☑ CR/NC  ☐ Repeatable for up to units
CATEGORIES
☐ 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>
<th>CS #</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Seminar</td>
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<td>Activity</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]

Justification: This is a required course in the political science major A course in the ways in which the discipline of political science conducts research is essential for every graduate of the program.

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
(Press enter for the next bulleted item)

- Conduct a literature review for a question in political science research
- Design a survey to collect political science data
- Perform content analysis on a document
- Design an elite interview protocol
- Distinguish appropriate data from inappropriate data for answering a political science questions
- Analyze quantitative data using statistical software
- Write up research findings in correct format
- Present research findings to an audience using visual aids

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)
- Studying Politics Scientifically
- Characteristics of Scientific Knowledge
- Acquiring Scientific Knowledge: Induction and Deduction
- Is Political Science Really “Science”?
- A Brief History of Political Science as a Discipline

Research Design
- Causal Inferences and Controlled Experiments
- Interpreting and Generalizing the Results of an Experiment
- Other Versions of Experimental Designs
- Causal Inference in Nonexperimental Designs
- Alternative Research Strategies

- The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables
  - Specifying the Research Question
  - Proposing Explanations
  - Formulating Hypotheses
  - Defining Concepts

- Conducting a Literature Review
  - Selecting a Research Topic
  - Why Conduct a Literature Review?
  - How to Conduct a Literature Review
  - Using the Internet to Conduct a Literature Review

- The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Measurement
  - Devising Measurement Strategies
  - Examples of Political Measurement
  - The Accuracy of Measurements
  - The Precision of Measurements
  - Multi-item Measures

- Making Empirical Observations: Direct and Indirect Observation
  - Types of Data and Collection Techniques
  - Observation
  - Direct Observation
  - Indirect Observation
  - Ethical Issues in Observation

- Document Analysis: Using the Written Record
  - Types of Written Records
  - Content Analysis
  - Advantages and Disadvantages of the Written Record

- Sampling
  - Population or Sample?
  - The Basics of Sampling
  - Types of Samples
  - Samples and Statistical Inference

- Elite Interviewing and Survey Research
  - Elite Interviewing
  - Survey Research
  - Validity and Inference

- Statistical Analysis in Political Science
  - Presentation of findings

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

List Cross-listed Courses

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)


8. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Scott A. Frisch, New Hire

   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  9/20/2005
Proposer of Course  Date