

GE CRITERIA APPROVAL FORM

Course Number and Title: **POLS 103 Introduction to International Politics**

Faculty member(s) proposing Course: Scott Frisch

Indicate which of the following GE would be satisfied by this course by marking an “X” on the appropriate lines. Courses may be placed in up to *two* GE categories as appropriate. Upper Division Interdisciplinary GE courses (UDIGE) may be placed in two GE categories in addition to the UDIGE category.

GE Category								
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1: Oral Communication							
<input type="checkbox"/>	A2: English Writing							
<input type="checkbox"/>	A3: Critical Thinking							
<input type="checkbox"/>	B1: Physical Sciences—Chemistry, Physics, Geology, and Earth Sciences							
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2: Life Sciences—Biology							
<input type="checkbox"/>	B3 Mathematics—Mathematics and Applications							
<input type="checkbox"/>	B4 Computers and Information Technology							
<input type="checkbox"/>	C1 Art							
<input type="checkbox"/>	C2: Literature							
<input type="checkbox"/>	C3a: Language							
<input type="checkbox"/>	C3b: Multicultural							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D: Social Perspectives							
<input type="checkbox"/>	E: Human Physiological and Psychological Perspectives							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Upper Division Interdisciplinary GE							
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Lab Included?</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="width: 15%;">No</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="width: 15%;">X</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> </table>		Lab Included?	Yes	_____	No	_____	X	_____
Lab Included?	Yes	_____	No	_____	X	_____		

Please provide a brief explanation of how the proposed course meets *each* of the criteria for the selected GE categories.

- 1) 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.

This course is designed to foster a greater understanding of the relationship between nation-states and the role of the United States in the world system through systematic study of political, historical, economic and psychological aspects of international relations. While this is a course that emphasizes the political dimensions of international affairs, significant emphasis will be placed on the historical development of the current situation (including a study of the geopolitics of World War I and the Cold War and its demise), the development of globalization of the world economy and the importance of economic considerations to political behaviors, and the psychological dimension of political behavior in the international realm, including the concept of group think, analysis of the motivations of terrorists and game theory applications of nation-state behavior. This course emphasizes the

importance of understanding the social and cultural context and their influence on international politics.

2) Focus on how a social science discipline conceives and studies human experience.

The discipline of political science is undergoing considerable internal debate over the appropriate way to analyze international politics. In a nutshell, the debate is between formal, quantitative modeling of the international system, and more empirically driven analysis either of a qualitative or quantitative nature. This course will be designed to expose students to the different perspectives, but as a lower division class designed to introduce student to one of the major subfields of political science, it must be accessible, and therefore, emphasis will be placed on the more qualitative and humanistic analysis of human experience.

3) Address issues using methods commonly employed by a social science discipline.

Students completing this course will be exposed to the various methods used for understanding international politics. These include: survey research, game theory and modeling, interview and content analysis. The importance of the scientific model (theory building, hypothesis testing etc.) to the discipline of political science will be stressed.