

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM AREA POLITICAL SCIENCE

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 Optional (Student's choice) Total Completions Allowed Multiple Enrollment in same semester

2. Mode of Instruction.

| | Units | Hours per Unit | Benchmark Enrollment | Graded Component | CS # (filled in by Dean) |
|------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lecture | 3 | 1 | 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Seminar | _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Laboratory | _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Activity | _____ | _____ | _____ | <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: 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)

- o Conduct a literature review for a question in political science research
- o design a survey to collect political science data
- o perform content analysis on a document
- o design an elite interview protocol
- o distinguish appropriate data from inappropriate data for answering a political science questions
- o analyze quantitative data using statistical software
- o write up research findings in correct format
- o 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

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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)

1. Corbett, Michael, Michael K. LeRoy and Clark Baxter. 2002. Research Methods in Political Science: An Introduction Using MicroCase. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing)
2. Johnson, Janet B and H.T.Reynolds. 2004. Political Science Research Methods, 5th Edition. (Washington, D.C.:CQ Press)
3. McNabb, David E. 200 Research Methods of Political Science: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods. (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe)
4. Manheim, Jarol B., Richard C. Rich, Lars Willnat Empirical Political Analysis: Research Methods in Political Science (5th Edition). (New York: Longman)

1.

8. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Scott A. Frisch, New Hire

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