

GE CRITERIA APPROVAL FORM

Course Number and Title: **POLS 102 Comparative Government**

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
Lab Included? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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 examines the political institutions, behaviors and ideas found in nations other than the United States. An understanding of these topics cannot be obtained without an understanding of the other core aspects of the societies to be studied: their histories, cultures, economies and other attributes that contribute to national and regional identity(s) and the development of their political systems and behaviors. A central theme of this course is that political development is always intertwined with economic, social and cultural factors, and any knowledge of a nation’s political systems is incomplete without a grasp of the societal factors that have shaped things political.

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

Historically, the subfield of political science known as comparative government has been dominated by scholars trained in methods of area studies. It is the most interdisciplinary of the political science subfields, as scholars devote their research activities to gaining a greater overall understanding of a single country or small number of countries from a single geographic region. Area studies scholars typically rely on qualitative methods to explore not only the politics of a country/region, but to examine aspects of culture, economics, geography and history as well. This course will provide the student with comparative case studies of different nations that include not only the political dimension, but the other social dimensions as well.

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

Political analysis of comparative government relies heavily on detailed observation and thick description of non-U.S. systems. Comparative politics scholars often spend considerable time doing field research, learning about the operation of political and social systems in the areas of their interest. Students in this course will be taught about methods of observation and description common in this subfield. In addition, a (growing) minority of comparative politics scholars are now approaching the subfield using methods more common in the other subfields of political science – statistical analysis of data on political behavior obtained through survey research and other forms of data collection – and the course will also emphasize this approach that is more common in the other subfields of the discipline.