

Eastern Illinois University
Course Proposal

CGS Agenda Item: 08-17
Proposal Effective Date: Fall 2008

Please check one: ☒ New course ☐ Revised course

PART I: CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. **Course:** PLS 5001
2. **Title:** Research in Political Science
3. **Long title:** Research in Political Science
4. **Class hours per week, lab hours per week, and credit [e.g., (3-0-3)]:** (1-0-1)
5. **Term(s) to be offered:** ☒ Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ On demand
6. **Initial term of offering:** ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer **Year: 2008**
7. **Course description:**

Introduces political science graduate students to the role of graduate research and research training in the discipline of political science. Topics to be examined include the value of cumulative research, research methodology, case studies, interview research methods, the potential for policy relevant research, publishing in political science, and the connection between scholarship and teaching in the field.

8. Registration restrictions:

a. Identify any equivalent courses None

b. Prerequisite(s) Must have graduate status in political science.

c. Who can waive the prerequisite(s)?

☒ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (Please specify)

d. Co-requisites Not applicable

e. Repeat status: ☐ Course may not be repeated.

☒ Course may be repeated to a maximum of 2 times.

f. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class: PLS graduate students.

g. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class. PLS graduate students

9. Special course attributes None

10. Grading methods (check all that apply): ☒ Standard letter C/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

("Standard letter"—i.e., ABCDF—is assumed to be the default grading method unless the course description indicates otherwise.)

11. Instructional delivery method: ☒ lecture ☐ lab ☐ lecture/lab combined ☐ independent study/research

☐ internship ☐ performance ☐ practicum or clinical ☐ study abroad ☐ other

PART II: ASSURANCE OF STUDENT LEARNING

1. List the student learning objectives of this course:

- a. If this is a general education course, indicate which objectives are designed to help students achieve one or more of the following goals of general education and university-wide assessment:

N/A

- b. If this is a graduate-level course, indicate which objectives are designed to help students achieve established goals for learning at the graduate level:

- Depth of content knowledge
- Effective critical thinking and problem solving
- Effective oral and written communication
- Advanced scholarship through research or creative activity

Students will examine, assess and critique literature (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving).

Students will apply their knowledge of new material in writing projects and seminar discussions. (oral and written communication skills).

Students will assess various research approaches utilized in political science (advanced scholarship through research).

2. Identify the assignments/activities the instructor will use to determine how well students attained the learning objectives

7 unit writing assignments and seminar discussions.

	Seminar Discussions	Weekly Writing Assignment
Depth of Content Knowledge	X	x
Effective Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	X	x
Effective Oral and Written Communication	X	x
Advanced Scholarship through research and creative activity	X	x

3.Explain how the instructor will determine students' grades for the course:

Class attendance and Seminar discussion/participation: 30 percent

Writing assignments: 70 percent

4 .For technology-delivered and other nontraditional-delivered courses/sections, address the following:

N/A

5.For courses numbered 4750-4999, specify additional or more stringent requirements for students enrolling for graduate credit. These include:

N/A

6.If applicable, indicate whether this course is writing-active, writing-intensive, or writing-centered, and describe how the course satisfies the criteria for the type of writing course identified. (See Appendix *.)

N/A

PART III: OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

This course will be taught during the first half of the semester in 100 minute course meetings.

Week 1: Course Introduction: Introduction to subfields in political science (critical reaction paper)

Week 2: The value in cumulative research (critical reaction paper)

Week 3: Case studies and field research in political science (critical reaction paper)

Week 4: Interviews and survey methods in political science research (critical reaction paper)

Week 5: Research in practice in political science (critical reaction paper)

Week 6: Scholarship and teaching in political science (critical reaction paper)

Week 7: Publishing research in political science (critical reaction paper)

PART IV: PURPOSE AND NEED

1. Explain the department's rationale for developing and proposing the course.

This course builds upon our existing efforts to provide graduate students training and knowledge of various research methods and the role of research in political science. The course also is a response to an external evaluation of our department, as well as our own internal assessment data, which suggests that our graduate students will benefit from additional exposure to the role of research in political science. The substantive material presented here covers an important gap in our existing graduate curriculum.

2. Justify the level of the course and any course prerequisites, co-requisites, or registration restrictions.

This course is for political science graduate students only, and builds upon our existing PLS graduate curriculum.

3. If the course is similar to an existing course or courses, justify its development and offering.

This course fills a current void in our current curriculum and is not similar to any existing PLS graduate level course in our current curriculum.

4. Impact on Program(s):

This course will be a core requirement for all political science graduate students.

PART V: IMPLEMENTATION

1. Faculty member(s) to whom the course may be assigned:

Initially, the course will be taught by Professors Ryan Hendrickson, Melinda Mueller and Richard Wandling and will be team-taught.

2. Additional costs to students:

There will be no additional costs to students.

3. Text and supplementary materials to be used (Include publication dates):

John W. Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks, CA: 2003).

Other readings from *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

PART VI: COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER

Not applicable

PART VII: APPROVALS

Date approved by the Political Science Department: February 27, 2008

Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee: March 21, 2008

Date approved by CGS: