

Eastern Illinois University
New/Revised Course Proposal Format
(Approved by CAA on 4/3/14 and CGS on 4/15/14, Effective Fall 2014)

Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course
2. Course prefix and number: _____ PLS 5001 _____
3. Short title: ☐ Research in Political Science _____
4. Long title: ☐ Research in Political Science _____
5. Hours per week: ☐ Class ☐ Lab ☐ 1 Credit (note: this course is held during the first half of the semester)
6. Terms: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ On demand
7. Initial term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2016 _____
8. **Catalog course description:** Introduces political science graduate students to the role of graduate research and research training in political science. Topics include the literature review, research ethics, case studies, interview research methods, policy relevant research, and the value of research to the discipline.

9. Course attributes:

General education component: _____ NA _____

☐ Cultural diversity ☐ Honors ☐ Writing centered ☐ Writing intensive ☐ Writing active

10. Instructional delivery

Type of Course:

☒ Lecture ☐ Lab ☐ Lecture/lab combined ☐ Independent study/research
☐ Internship ☐ Performance ☐ Practicum/clinical ☐ Other, specify: _____

Mode(s) of Delivery:

☒ Face to Face ☒ Online ☐ Study Abroad
☐ Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction _____

11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. ☐ none _____

12. Equivalent course(s): ☐ none _____

a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

13. Prerequisite(s):

a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)? N/A _____

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will not be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.

Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)

1. x___ Course is required for the major(s) of ___M.A. degree in Political Science_____
- ___ Course is required for the minor(s) of _____
- ___ Course is required for the certificate program(s) of _____
- ___ Course is used as an elective

2. **Rationale for proposal** : This course is a revision of the existing PLS 5001 course, updating the course language, and allowing for on-line delivery. The possibility of online delivery provides added scheduling flexibility for our graduate students.

3. **Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)**

Similarity to other courses: N/A

Prerequisites: N/A

Co-requisites: N/A

Enrollment restrictions: This is a graduate level course focusing specifically on research methods used in Political Science, making the enrollment restriction appropriate.

Writing active, intensive, centered: N/A

4. **General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**

General education component: N/A

Curriculum: N/A

Instruction: N/A

Assessment: N/A

5. **Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**

Online or hybrid delivery justification: The online version of this course will allow added scheduling flexibility for graduate students, and is vital for our development of an on-line MA option for Political Science students.

Instruction: The course will be delivered primarily via the LMS at EIU (currently D2L), although email and other online technologies may be used occasionally. Online sections will be taught by faculty who completed training for on-line course development and pedagogy. The primary difference between the online course and the face-to-face course will be the conduit for discussion, with a discussion board instead of a seminar room. The faculty and students can facilitate a rich discussion in either learning environment. The technology will be used to support student achievement by allowing them to interact with one another and the instructor at times which are convenient for them.

Integrity: The integrity of student work will be assured through repeated writing assignments. Given that students often have signature writing styles or voices, having someone else submit

a single assignment will be evident to the instructor. In addition, all assignments are checked through on-line mechanisms for plagiarism. Academic honesty is addressed in the syllabus.

Interaction: Instructor-student and student-student interaction will be promoted through a variety of means, including (but not limited to) the LMS discussion board, email, feedback on individual assignments, peer review, and online chats. Faculty are also be available to meet students via phone conversation or on campus for a face-to-face meeting.

Model Syllabus (Part II)

Please include the following information:

1. Course number and title: PLS 5001/Research in Political Science
2. Catalog 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 literature review, research methodology, research ethics, 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.
3. Learning objectives:
 - a. Identifying, interpreting, and organizing scholarly sources to develop a literature review (G2/critical thinking, G1/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - b. Identifying, interpreting and applying data and other relevant information for research (G2/critical thinking, G1/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - c. Understanding, evaluating, and applying small-N research methodologies used in Political Science (G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research, G3/communication)
 - d. Identifying and evaluating ethical issues in human subject research (G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research)
 - e. Demonstrating an understanding of the purpose and value of Political Science research (G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research, G3/communication)
 - f. Communicating research development and evaluations in writing, discussions, and presentations (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G3/communication)
4. Course materials: The required text for this course (available at TRS) is Powner's *Empirical Research and Writing: A Political Science Student's Practical Guide*. Additional readings will be required from *PS: Political Science & Politics*, and other journals, available through Booth Library.
5. Weekly outline of content.
 - a. Week 1: Introduction to Research in Political Science/focusing on the value of Political Science research, challenges to research, and developing research questions
 - b. Week 2: The Value of Cumulative Research/focusing on the purpose and organization of literature reviews, an evaluation of sample literature reviews
 - c. Week 3: Data, Ethics & Human Subjects Research/focusing on data sources, Ethical issues, and EIU's IRB certification for human subjects research
 - d. Week 4: Case Study/focusing on research design, advantages and disadvantages, and case study techniques
 - e. Week 5: Interviews and Survey Techniques/focusing on questionnaire and survey design, advantages and disadvantages, and common practices
 - f. Week 6: Research, Publishing & Teaching/focusing on examining the dynamic relations between research, teaching, and the professional world
 - g. Week 7: Literature Review presentations/focusing on student presentations of their literature review projects and student feedback

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.
- a. Weekly participation, 30% of final grade
Students will be expected to substantively participate and engage in class discussion. In a traditionally-delivered class, this will occur face-to-face, but in the online course, this will occur through the discussion board. Guidelines for satisfactory quantity and quality of discussion will be provided.
 - b. Four weekly assignments (weeks 2 and 4-6), 45% of final grade
Students will write four 2-page papers that analyze and evaluate assigned readings, and require them to apply concepts from the readings to their own research projects.
 - c. IRB certification (week 3), 5% of final grade
Students will complete EIU's IRB training program. Students who recently completed this training will write a brief reaction paper based on the assigned readings.
 - d. Literature review project, 20% of final grade
Students will develop a research question and compile a bibliography of scholarly sources related to that research question, organizing their sources by schools of thought or an appropriate theme. Students will present their literature review project to classmates, and receive feedback. In the online class, this can be done through the LMS or other technologies.
7. Grading scale.
A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 0-59%
8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.

	Weekly Participation	Weekly Assignments	IRB Training	Literature Review Project
3a/literature review	x	x		x
3b/data	x	x		
3c/small-N methods	x	x		
3d/ethics	x		x	
3e/value of research	x	x	x	
3f/written and oral communication	x	x		x

Date approved by the department or school: November 18, 2015

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: December 11, 2015

Date approved by the Honors Council (*if this is an honors course*):

Date approved by CAA: CGS: