

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

Agenda Item #16-02
Effective: Fall 2016

Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course
2. Course prefix and number: PLS 5053
3. Short title: Research Methods
4. Long title: Research Methods
5. Hours per week: Class Lab 3 Credit
6. Terms: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ On demand
7. Initial term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2016
8. **Catalog course description:** The study and application of methods used in Political Science for research, including research design, survey design and analysis, and statistical analysis.
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: approximately 5-7.5 hours (or 2-3 weeks) for a face-to-face statistical software hands-on lab, with the remaining 30-32.5 hours of classroom time online.
11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. None
12. **Equivalent course(s):** NA
 - a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? Yes ☒ No
13. **Prerequisite(s):** None
 - a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? Yes No
 - b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)?
 - c. Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)? Yes No

d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

☐ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (specify) _____

14. Co-requisite(s): ☐ None _____

15. Enrollment restrictions

a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may take the course: MA students in the department of Political Science.

b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may not take the course: _____

16. Repeat status: ☒ May not be repeated ☐ May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: _____

18. Grading methods: ☒ Standard ☐ CR/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions:

☐ Grade for course will not count in a student's grade point average.

☐ Grade for course will not count in hours toward graduation.

☐ Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in: _____

☐ Credit hours for course will be removed from student's hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: _____

20. Additional costs to students:

Supplemental Materials or Software ☐ None _____

Course Fee ☒ No ☐ Yes, Explain if yes _____

21. Community college transfer:

☐ A community college course may be judged equivalent.

☒ A community college may not be judged equivalent.

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. ☒ Course is required for the major(s) of M.A. 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 5053 course, updating the course language, and allowing for on-line delivery. Online delivery provides added scheduling flexibility for our graduate students, and allows us to offer an online degree program.

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

Similarity to other courses: Other departments offer graduate level research methods, but none with a Political Science focus.

Prerequisites: NA

Co-requisites: NA

Enrollment restrictions: This course is restricted to Political Science graduate students, given the focused nature of the material.

Writing active, intensive, centered: NA

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

General education component: NA

Curriculum: NA

Instruction: NA

Assessment: NA

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. In the hybrid version of the course, we will

include a Saturday software “hands-on” session for students to have face-to-face contact with the instructor in a computer lab setting. Students who live too far away to attend this session will complete software training sessions offered through Lynda.com (and free to EIU students), and complete a software assignment, demonstrating their familiarity. They can also arrange a face-to-face meeting with the instructor if necessary. Since the research methods course relies heavily on student application of methodological tools, the instructor will use appropriate technology, such as screen capture software and videos.

Integrity: The integrity of student work will be assured through repeated writing and methods 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. The Saturday software workshop provides for a face-to-face meeting. 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 5053/Research Methods
2. Catalog description: The study and application of methods used in Political Science for research, including research design, survey design and analysis, and statistical analysis.
3. Learning objectives:
Students will be able to ...
 - a. Develop research questions and hypotheses. (G2/critical thinking, G3/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - b. Operationalize measures related to their research, including independent and dependent variables. (G2/critical thinking, G3/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - c. Gather and organize data from a variety of sources. (G2/critical thinking, G3/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - d. Evaluate and apply survey and sampling methods. (G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research)
 - e. Evaluate and apply univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistical tests. (G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research)
 - f. Present research findings using tables and other data visualization techniques. (G2/critical thinking, G3/content knowledge, G3/communication, G4/advanced research)
4. Course materials.
Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff's *Political Science Research Methods*, 8th ed. (2015)
Additional readings will be assigned from scholarly journals and other sources.

5. Weekly outline of content.

Weeks 1-3:

- Introduction to social science research methods
- Research design and research questions
- Operationalization and measurement
- Hypothesis testing and sources of data

Weeks 4-5:

- Sampling techniques
- Survey design and administration

Weeks 6-7:

- Hybrid option: meet on campus for a 5-6 hour software applied session
- Or, complete all software training on Lynda.com or comparable training

Week 8

- Univariate and descriptive analysis

Weeks 9-10

- Bivariate analysis
- T-tests, Chi-square, nonparametric tests

Weeks 11-13

- Multivariate analysis: OLS, logit

Weeks 14-15

- Presenting research, data visualization
- Research methods presentations

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.

- a. 5 Assignments, worth 25%: students will be required to complete assignments demonstrating that they can apply class materials
- b. Statistical software training completion, worth 5%: students will complete an assignment demonstrating that they understand how to use statistics software
- c. Survey project, worth 20%: students will design and administer a survey, using appropriate sampling techniques
- d. Analysis project, worth 35%: students will develop, implement, and write up a research design, applying methods from class
- e. Class participation, worth 15%: students will substantively participate and engage in class discussion, either face-to-face, or through the class discussion board. Discussions will focus on applying readings, critical feedback and peer review, and asking questions. Guidelines for discussion will be provided.

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	Assignments	SPSS Training	Survey Project	Analysis Project
3a/research questions & hypotheses	x	X		x	x
3b/operationalization	x	X	x	x	x
3c/gather and organize data		X	x	X	X
3d/survey and sampling	x	X		x	
3e/statistical tests	x	X	x	X	x
3f/presenting research findings	x	X		x	x

Date approved by the department or school: 11/18/2015

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 12/11/2015

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

Date approved by CAA: CGS: