

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 5373 _____
3. **Short title:** _____ Proseminar on American Politics _____
4. **Long title:** _____ Proseminar on American Politics _____
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:** An overview of the major scholarly literature in American politics, and an understanding of how this foundation influences contemporary research.
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):** ____ 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: Students enrolled in the M.A. program in 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 _____ NA _____

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, with a Political Science concentration

☐ 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:** Our department's curriculum lacked a proseminar in American politics. This course will fill that gap, offering students a better introduction to the major works and theories about American politics. By offering this course online on a rotating basis, this course will also allow us to offer an online degree program.

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

Similarity to other courses: NA

Prerequisites: NA

Co-requisites: NA

Enrollment restrictions: This is a graduate level course focusing specifically on the scholarly literature on American politics, making the enrollment restriction appropriate.

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 required for the 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.

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 5373/Proseminar in American Politics
2. Catalog description: An overview of the major scholarly literature in American politics, and an understanding of how this foundation influences contemporary research.
3. Learning objectives:
 - a. Identify, interpret, and organize scholarly sources to develop a review essay. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G3/communication, G4/advanced research)
 - b. Identify, interpret and evaluate the foundational literature in American politics. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G3/communication, G4/advanced research)
 - c. Identify, interpret and evaluate the methods used to study American politics. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G3/communication, G4/advanced research)
 - d. Communicate research development and evaluations through writing, discussions, and presentations. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G3/communication, G4/advanced research)
4. Course materials: Many of the readings will come from scholarly journals, but the following books would serve as examples of foundational readings:
 - a. Dahl's *Who Governs?*
 - b. Schattschneider's *The Semi-Sovereign People*
 - c. Downs's *An Economic Theory of Democracy*
 - d. Olson's *The Logic of Collective Action*
 - e. Neustadt's *Presidential Power and the Modern President*
 - f. Mayhew's *Congress: The Electoral Connection*
 - g. Zaller's *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*
5. Weekly outline of content.
 - a. Week 1: Foundations of American Politics/examining founding documents, development of democratic principles
 - b. Week 2: Pluralism & American Power/examining who has power in U.S. politics
 - c. Week 3: Responding to Pluralism/examining responses to the pluralist school, elite theory, transactional school
 - d. Week 4: Participation in American Civic Life/examining modes and evolution of political participation
 - e. Week 5: Identity Politics/examining the roles of race and ethnicity in shaping U.S. politics

- f. Week 6: Gender, Sex & Politics/examining the roles of gender and sex in shaping U.S. politics
 - g. Week 7: American Public Opinion/examining models explaining U.S. public opinion, political knowledge, socialization
 - h. Week 8: Political Parties/examining models of party evolution and development
 - i. Week 9: Interest Groups & Social Movements/examining group theory
 - j. Week 10: Presidential Elections/examining fundamental questions about presidential elections
 - k. Week 11: Presidential Power/examining competing theories on power
 - l. Week 12: Congressional Representation/examining fundamental questions about Congress
 - m. Week 13: Congress as an Institution/examining competing theories on decision-making
 - n. Week 14: The Role of Media in Politics/examining the role of the media
 - o. Week 15: Presentations
6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.
- a. Weekly participation, 30%: Students will be expected to substantively participate and engage in class discussion. In the online course, this will occur through the discussion board. Guidelines for satisfactory quantity and quality of discussion will be provided.
 - b. Weekly writing assignments, 30%: Students will write weekly analyses of readings, requiring them to critique theoretical and methodological questions, and to synthesize concepts across readings.
 - c. Review essay, 30%: Students will write a 10-12 page review of classic and contemporary research on a particular field in American politics. They will use appropriate thematic development and citation style.
 - d. Presentation, 10%: Students will present their reviews to the class for critical feedback. For the online class, this will 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	Review Essay	Presentation
3a/review essay			x	x
3b/knowledge of foundational literature	x	x	x	x
3c/methods	x	x	x	x
3d/written and oral communication	x	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: