

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

CGS Agenda Item: 18-11
Effective Fall 2018

Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course
2. Course prefix and number: PLS 5053
3. Short title: Research Methods Pol Sci
4. Long title: Research Methods in Political Science
5. Hours per week: 3 Class Lab 3 Credit
6. Terms: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ On demand
7. Initial term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2018
8. **Catalog course description:** The study and application of methods used in Political Science for research, including research ethics, literature reviews, research design, and quantitative and qualitative methods appropriate for empirical 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. PLS 5001

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: Graduate students enrolled in the MA 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 ☐ 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 title, removing the hybrid option, and updating the course material to reflect integration of PLS 5001/Introduction to Political Science, which is being removed as a separate course.
3. **Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)**
Similarity to other courses: About 25 percent of the course material will be similar to our online graduate research methods course (PLS 5054), particularly in terms of research design, sampling, and quantitative methods. However, the majority of this course focuses on empirical research methods for students in the MA in Political Science. This course would also be similar to other graduate level research methods courses in the social sciences, but the content focuses on Political Science.
Prerequisites: NA
Co-requisites: NA
Enrollment restrictions: Students must be enrolled in the MA in Political Science.
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 allows added scheduling flexibility for graduate 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. 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 classroom. 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. All online instructors must complete OCDi training or the equivalent before teaching the course.

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. 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 in Political Science
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. Demonstrate that they understand ethics in human subject research (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking)
 - b. Apply and evaluate theories and models from scholarly literature to develop research questions and hypotheses. (G2/critical thinking, G1/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - c. Gather, evaluate, and use data from a variety of sources. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research)
 - d. Operationalize measures related to their research, including independent and dependent variables. (G2/critical thinking, G1/content knowledge, G4/advanced research)
 - e. Evaluate and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative research tools. (G1/content knowledge, G2/critical thinking, G4/advanced research)
 - f. Effectively present research findings. (G2/critical thinking, G1/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: Research Questions, Scholarly Literature & Ethics
Topics: introduction to social science research methods, literature reviews, human subjects research, research design and research questions
Weeks 4-5: Measurement
Topics: operationalization and measurement, hypothesis testing and sources of data
Week 6: Sampling
Topics: Sampling techniques
Week 7: Univariate statistics & descriptive analysis

Topics: Measures of central tendency, frequency distributions

Week 8: Bivariate analysis

Topics: T-tests, Chi-square, nonparametric tests

Weeks 9-10: Multivariate analysis

Topics: OLS, logit

Weeks 11-12: Qualitative analysis

Topics: case studies, interviews, field research

Week 13: Final Project Conferences

Students will have individualized meetings with instructor to work on their final projects.

Week 14: Assembling and presenting research

Topics: types of presentations, conferences, writing up results, data visualization

Week 15/Student presentations

Finals week: Final Project due

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.
 - a. Participation, worth 30%: Students will substantively participate in and lead class discussion, via the discussion board. Guidelines will be provided.
 - b. Homework assignments, worth 30%: Students will complete assignments related to weekly topics, applying concepts, and demonstrating skills.
 - c. Final project, worth 40%: students will complete a final project demonstrating research methods skills.
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 30%	Homework Assignments 30%	Final Project 40%
Demonstrate that they understand ethics in human subject research (G1, G2)	X	X	X
Apply and evaluate theories and models from scholarly literature to develop research questions and hypotheses. (G2, G1, G4)	X	X	X
Gather, evaluate, and use data from a variety of sources. (G1, G2, G4)		X	X
Operationalize measures related to their research, including independent and dependent variables. (G2, G1, G4)	X	X	X
Evaluate and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative research tools. (G1, G2, G4)	X	X	X
Effectively present research findings. (G2, G1, G3, G4)	X	X	X

Date approved by the department or school:

Date approved by the college curriculum committee:

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

Date approved by CAA: CGS: