1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
A. Course number: PLS 2033
B. Title: Research Methods in Political Science
C. Meeting times and credit: (3-0-3)
D. Terms offered: F, S
E. Short title: RESEARCH METHODS
F. Course Description: The goal of this course is to introduce students to research methods in Political Science. Students will learn both qualitative and quantitative methods for carrying out political science research. Students also will learn how to use scholarly literature to support their analysis and how to write research papers in Political Science.
G. Prerequisites: Students who are not Political Science majors or Social Science Teaching majors with a Political Science Designation must have permission of the instructor.
H. Initial term to be offered: Fall 2006

2. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION
A. Students enrolled in this course will:
   • Identify the appropriate sources and resources to conduct research in Political Science.
   • Develop qualitative methods and techniques to perform research in political science.
   • Develop quantitative methods and techniques to perform research in political science.
   • Develop critical thinking and writing skills.
   • Demonstrate basic skills in using an existing statistical package (SPSS).
B. Evaluation of Student performance in the course will be based on the following:
   • Qualitative Problem sets (20%)
   • Quantitative Problem sets (20%)
   • Midterm and Final Exams (60%)

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<tr>
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<th>Midterm Exam</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>Qualitative Problem Sets</th>
<th>Quantitative Problem Sets</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identify the appropriate sources and resources to conduct research in Political Science.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop qualitative methods and techniques to perform research in political science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop quantitative methods and techniques to perform research in political science.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Develop writing and critical thinking skills.</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Demonstrate knowledge in the use of an existing statistical package (SPSS).</td>
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C. Technology-delivered: Not Applicable.
D. Course numbered 4750-4999: Not Applicable.
E. This is not a writing intensive course.
3. OUTLINE OF THE COURSE
   A. The course will meet 45 times during the semester (3 times a week). The outline of the course topics is as follows.

   Week One:    Introduction to Political Research
   Week Two:    Research Questions and Hypotheses
   Week Three:  Literature Review
   Week Four:   Research Design and Measurement
   Week Five:   Case Study, Observation, and Conducting Interviews
   Week Six:    Surveys and Sampling
   Week Seven:  Content Analysis and Document Analysis
   Week Eight:  Review and Exam 1
   Week Nine:   Introduction to SPSS
   Week Ten:    Descriptive Statistics Test/Z Score
   Week Eleven: Contingency Tables, Difference of Means, T-Tests and Chi Square
   Week Twelve: Measures of Association
   Week Thirteen: Correlation, ANOVA and Regression
   Week Fourteen: Dummy Variables and Interactions
   Week Fifteen: Conclusions

   B. This is not a technology-delivered course.

4. RATIONALE
   A. Purpose and need: This course is a revision of two existing courses: Introduction to Political Research (PLS 2003) and Techniques of Political Analysis (PLS 2053). The result of the department’s assessment of these courses, based on departmental analysis of writing samples and student surveys, indicates that undergraduate majors would be better served by one integrated course. Enough material in each class overlapped that combining the courses only slightly reduces the depth of coverage. Moreover, integrating the two courses allows students to better understand how qualitative and quantitative methods complement each other in Political Science research.
B. Justification of the level of the course: The new course would remain a 2000-level course, appropriate for sophomore majors to complete before moving on to upper-division courses. This course has no prerequisites since it is the introductory course to research methods. Students who are not Political Science majors or Social Science Teaching majors with a Political Science Designation must have permission of the instructor since the course is tailored to Political Science students and their research needs. However, students from other majors might also find the course helpful.

C. Similarity to existing courses: This course will substitute for Introduction to Political Research (PLS 2003) and Techniques of Political Analysis (PLS 2053). When these courses are deleted from the course catalog, there will be no duplication of material from existing courses.

D. Impact on programs: This course will replace PLS 2003 and PLS 2053 in the B.A. in Political Science; the B.A. in Political Science, International Studies Option; and the Political Science Honors Program, with the result being a reduction of 3 credit hours in each of these programs. PLS 2033 will replace PLS 2003 in the Social Science Teaching Major with Political Science Designation, with no corresponding reduction in credit hours in the program.

5. IMPLEMENTATION
   A. Faculty members to whom the course may be assigned: Initially the course will be assigned to Dr. Lilian A. Barria and Dr. Andrew McNitt. Other qualified faculty may be assigned to teach the course in the future.
   B. Additional costs to students: No additional cost will be incurred by students.
   C. Textbooks and supplementary materials to be used: The class will use
      Additional supplementary materials may also be used.

6. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER
   A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

7. DATE APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL April 13, 2005

8. DATE APPROVED BY THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:September 23, 2005

9. DATE APPROVED BY CAA October 20, 2005