

# POLS 201: WRITING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

---

## In Workflow

1. POLS Chair (jhcox@csus.edu)
2. SSIS College Committee Chair (tristan.josephson@csus.edu)
3. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu)
4. Academic Services (torsetj@csus.edu;%20212408496@csus.edu;%20cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
5. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
6. Writing and Reading Subcommittee Chair (Writing%20and%20Reading%20Subcommittee%20Chair@csus.edu)
7. Grad Studies Policies Committee Chair (anne.lindsay@csus.edu)
8. Dean of Undergraduate (james.german@csus.edu;%20celena.showers@csus.edu)
9. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
10. Catalog Editor (torsetj@csus.edu)
11. Registrar's Office (w lindsey@csus.edu)
12. PeopleSoft (PeopleSoft@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Mon, 24 Aug 2020 21:03:56 GMT  
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Chair
2. Wed, 09 Sep 2020 23:38:44 GMT  
Tristan Josephson (tristan.josephson): Rollback to Initiator
3. Fri, 11 Sep 2020 13:52:14 GMT  
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Chair
4. Fri, 11 Sep 2020 17:30:32 GMT  
Tristan Josephson (tristan.josephson): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
5. Fri, 11 Sep 2020 20:41:42 GMT  
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 06:58:49 GMT

### Viewing: POLS 201 : Writing in Political Science

Last edit: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 06:58:48 GMT

Changes proposed by: Kristina Victor (102033072)

#### Contact(s):

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Kristina Victor	kristina.victor@csus.edu	916-213-8652

#### Catalog Title:

Writing in Political Science

#### Class Schedule Title:

Writing in Political Science

#### Academic Group: (College)

SSIS - Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

#### Academic Organization: (Department)

Political Science

#### Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?

No

#### Catalog Year Effective:

Fall 2021 (2021/2022 Catalog)

#### Subject Area: (prefix)

POLS - Political Science

**Catalog Number: (course number)**

201

**Course ID: (For administrative use only.)**

TBD

**Units:**

3

**In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?**

Fall, Spring

**Does this course require a room for its final exam?**

No, final exam does not require a room

**Does this course replace an existing experimental course?**

No

**This course complies with the credit hour policy:**

Yes

**Justification for course proposal:**

The POLS 201 course will be the Political Science Department's Graduate Level Writing Intensive course to fulfill the University Graduate Intensive Writing requirement. The Political Science Department chose to create a new course, instead of adapting an existing course, for several reasons. This new course will not only focus on developing our students' writing, but also introduce our graduate students to: the major subfields in the discipline, different types of writing within the subfields/discipline, and thinking about how to conduct research. This new course will serve as a companion course to our existing POLS 200 course-quantitative methods, by allowing students more time to explore and research ideas for projects. The new course will also provide instruction on how to be successful in our existing grad courses and when taking comprehensive exams; by instructing students on how to read, summarize, and analyze the literature. The department committee for creating this class felt strongly that this type of course was missing in our graduate program and would benefit our graduate students during their time in the program and post-graduation in a job or future PhD programs.

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 80 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

A graduate-level seminar which introduces students to the research and literature in major fields in political science. Explores the norms of writing across the political science discipline, including for example: formal academic writing, policy writing, persuasive advocacy writing, methodological writing, and peer review. Broadly examines the literature from International Relations, Comparative Politics, American Politics, Political Theory, and Methods.

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

No

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Letter

**Approval required for enrollment?**

No Approval Required

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Discussion  
Lecture

**Discussion Classification**

CS#02 - Lecture/Discussion (K-factor=1WTU per unit)

**Discussion Units**

1

**Lecture Classification**

CS#02 - Lecture/Discussion (K-factor=1WTU per unit)

**Lecture Units**

2

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes: Describe outcomes using the following format: 'Students will be able to: 1), 2), etc.'**

Expected Learning Outcomes (ELO), by the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Communicate in writing using the norms in the major fields of political science
2. Identify academic research relevant to a research question, or an academic inquiry
3. Evaluate evidence from multiple sources
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the types of writing in political science
5. Organize research into major themes and make connections across literature

Writing Intensive Learning Outcomes (WILO), by the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Understand the major research and professional writing conventions, practices, and methods in political science
2. Understand the major formats, genres, and styles used in the political science discipline
3. Practice reading and writing within the discipline
4. Practice peer review
5. Practice revising and editing written work to incorporate feedback

**Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:**

POLS 201 Syllabus.docx

**Assessment Strategies: A description of the assessment strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers) which will be used by the instructor to determine the extent to which students have achieved the learning outcomes noted above.**

Weekly:

1. Discussion questions (5) 10 points each: co-lead discussion of weekly readings with discussion questions. See examples provided by instructor, include page numbers for follow up questions, and help classmates make the linkages to other readings and findings. [ELO 2, 4 and WILO 3]
2. Article/Book Summary (3) 20 points each: complete three article/book summaries based on weekly readings of academic articles and book chapters, selected by the student. See outline provided by instructor on Canvas and in Appendix. [ELO 2, 3, 4, 5 and WILO 1, 2, 3]
3. In-class Peer Review (3) 25 points each: complete three in-class peer reviews for the Op-Ed, the Policy Brief, and the Research Design/Grant Proposal. Peer review outline and questions provided by instructor on Canvas. [ELO1, 3, 4 and WILO 1, 4, 5]

Over the Semester:

1. Memo (2) 50 points each: memo #1 will propose a final project, memo #2 will propose a policy brief assignment, approximately 500 words each. Memos facilitate the planning and developing of ideas for larger assignments. [ELO 1, 2, 3, 5 and WILO 1, 2, 3]
2. Op-Ed 75 points: Students will develop an Op-Ed and submit their finished product to a newspaper or magazine, approximately 700-800 words. Op-Eds are persuasive pieces that will help with the framing and story used to motivate the research question. [ELO 1, 2, 5 and WILO 2, 3, 5]

- 3. Annotated Bibliography 100 points: Students will develop an Annotated Bibliography with 12-15 articles/books and at least two broad themes. The annotated bibliography is the foundation of the final project and will later be developed into the literature review portion of the final project. [ELO 2, 3, 4, 5 and WILO 1, 2, 3]
- 4. Policy Brief 100 points: Students will summarize the existing evidence, or limitations of the evidence, on their topic, approximately 500-1000 words. Evidence can be qualitative or quantitative data, or more abstract theory. [ELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and WILO 1, 2, 3, 5]
- 5. Final Project (Research Design or Grant Proposal) 150 points: Students will select either a research design or grant proposal, approximately 4000-4500 words. The final project will include a title, abstract, research question, literature review, and bibliography. [ELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and WILO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

**For whom is this course being developed?**

Majors in the Dept

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

Yes

**Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?**

Yes

**Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:**

**Programs:**

- MA in Political Science (California and its Political Environment)
- MA in Political Science (International Relations/Comparative Government)
- MA in Political Science (Political Theory)

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

**I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.**

I/we agree

## University Learning Goals

**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

- Critical thinking/analysis
- Information literacy
- Disciplinary knowledge
- Professionalism
- Research (optional)

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

**Is this a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course?**

Yes

**Please attach the GWI Course Approval Request form:**

gwi\_form[2].docx

**Please attach any additional files not requested above:**

- Final Project Instructions.docx
- Discussion questions instructions.docx
- Article Summaries Instructions.docx
- Peer Review Instructions.docx
- Memo Instructions.docx
- Op-Ed Instructions.docx
- Annotated Bibliography Instructions.docx
- Policy Brief Instructions.docx

**Reviewer Comments:**

**Tristan Josephson (tristan.josephson) (Wed, 09 Sep 2020 23:38:44 GMT):** Rollback: Please send email for requested changes.

Key: 14287