

POLS 149A: ORIGINAL RESEARCH IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Mon, 24 Aug 2020 21:03:52 GMT
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Chair
2. Thu, 27 Aug 2020 21:09:20 GMT
Heather Mummaw (mummawh): Rollback to Initiator
3. Mon, 22 Feb 2021 22:47:54 GMT
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Chair
4. Wed, 24 Mar 2021 16:28:14 GMT
Tristan Josephson (tristan.josephson): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
5. Fri, 26 Mar 2021 17:22:36 GMT
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

Date Submitted: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 22:17:38 GMT

Viewing: POLS 149A : Original Research in Comparative Politics

Last edit: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 22:17:37 GMT

Changes proposed by: Nancy Lapp (101060826)

Contact(s):

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Catalog Title:

Original Research in Comparative Politics

Class Schedule Title:

Research Comparative Politics

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 2022 (2022/2023 Catalog)

Subject Area: (prefix)

POLS - Political Science

Catalog Number: (course number)

149A

Course ID: (For administrative use only.)

136681

Units:

3

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

Fall, Spring

Does this course require a room for its final exam?

Yes, final exam requires a room

Does this course replace an existing experimental course?

No

This course complies with the credit hour policy:

Yes

Justification for course proposal:

This proposal is being submitted to qualify POLS 149A as a Writing Intensive (WI) course. This fills a need in the department curriculum. Currently, the Political Science Department offers one WI course, a course which is not an elective for International Relations (IR) majors. Having a WI course that is an International Relations elective will facilitate IR majors graduating on time. The proposal also removes a previous, unenforceable prerequisite, and restricts enrollment to department majors.

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

Students will engage in a cross-national research agenda. Students will conduct original research in comparative politics. Countries and topics acceptable for comparison will vary with instructor.

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?

Yes

Prerequisite:

GWAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X. POLS or IR majors or instructor consent only.

Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?

Yes

Does this course have corequisites?

No

Graded:

Letter

Approval required for enrollment?

No Approval Required

Course Component(s) and Classification(s):

Seminar

Seminar Classification

CS#05 - Seminar (K-factor=1 WTU per unit)

Seminar Units

3

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.'

Students will be able to:

1. Define major concepts in comparative politics, such as democracy, political representation, and authoritarianism.
2. Identify and measure instances in the study of comparative politics of political phenomena, such as democracy, authoritarianism, representation, and inequality.
3. Critique and compare arguments in comparative politics, such as institutional, structural, cultural, and leadership explanations of phenomena.
4. Apply and evaluate theories in a research paper

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

POLS 149A Syllabus Fall 2022 WI final.pdf

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.

1. Ability to define major concepts assessed through quizzes and written responses to questions about the readings.
2. Identifying and measuring phenomena assessed through short written assignments and stages of research paper.
3. Ability to critique and compare arguments assessed through written responses to readings, where they will summarize, interpret, and then integrate arguments in research paper.
4. Application and evaluation of theories assessed through written responses and research paper.

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

No

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**Undergraduate Learning Goals:**Competence in the disciplines
Intellectual and practical skills**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

GE Course and GE Goal(s)

Is this a General Education (GE) course or is it being considered for GE?

Yes

In which GE area(s) does this apply?

Writing Intensive

Which GE objective(s) does this course satisfy?

Read, write, and understand relatively complex and sophisticated English prose.

Find and use common information resources, engage in specialized library research, use computers and seek out appropriate expert opinion and advice.

Attach Course Syllabus with Detailed Outline of Weekly Topics:

POLS 149A Syllabus Fall 2022 WI final.pdf

Syllabi must include: GE area outcomes listed verbatim; catalog description of the course; prerequisites, if any; student learning objectives; assignments; texts; reading lists; materials; grading system; exams and other methods of evaluation.

Will more than one section of this course be offered?

No

General Education Details - Writing Intensive

Section 1.

Indicate how the course meets the following criteria for Writing Intensive. Relate the statement to the course syllabus and outline. Be as succinct as possible. Courses must comply with the general criteria for Writing Intensive courses:

The course must build on the basic skills and knowledge acquired by students in their foundation courses in General Education or the major.

This is a seminar for majors that expects students to draw upon and make connections with what they have learned in other POLS classes, including the required course in research methods.

The course must expand students' knowledge by examining complex issues.

The political phenomena being investigated is highly complex. For this reason, separate topics are examined weekly, with students writing formal analyses and receiving feedback each week. These are then revised further as students integrate and apply what they have learned in an in-depth research paper.

The course must expand students' abilities to reason logically and to write clearly in prose.

The weekly assignments and stages of the research paper require that students revise their work to improve both analysis and clarity.

Students must be required to write not less than 5,000 words of clear and logical prose (not to include simple narrative or diary writing).

Students write a research paper of no fewer than 5,000 words. Weekly responses of 250 words require analysis and polished writing (they are not narrative or diary writing).

Instructors must work actively with students to sharpen analytical abilities and to improve their writing styles.

Instructor reviews and provides feedback on weekly writing assignments that will be revised for inclusion as appropriate in final research paper. Students submit an outline and two drafts of the research paper which the instructor reviews and provides feedback before students finish the final paper. (Students will be doing peer reviews in addition to receiving feedback from the instructor. The instructor reviews and comments on all assignments.)

Writing assignments must be spread over the entire semester (with at least 3,000 of the 5,000 words due before the last two weeks of instruction).

Students write 250 words or more each week, much of which will be revised for the first draft of the research paper (first draft required to be no fewer than 3,000 words) that is due Week 12.

Instructors must provide timely responses and evaluation of each writing assignment, and evaluations and comments must not only be about the subject matter content but also about writing skills.

Instructor evaluates and provides feedback on weekly writing assignments. Feedback includes both substantive comments about content and suggestions for improvement in writing.

Section 2.

If you would like, you may provide further information that might help the G.E. Course Review Committee understand how this course meets these criteria and/or the G.E. Program Objectives found on pp. 2-3 of the 'Statement of Policies Pertaining to the G.E. Program' of August, 1991.

The course is not intended for GE other than WI. The course will be an option for POLS and IR majors, though it will not be required.

WRITING INTENSIVE

Recognizing the value of writing in all disciplines, as a tool in learning as well as conveying knowledge, the Academic Senate mandated that the teaching of writing be an all university responsibility. To that end, the Senate recommended that three units of Writing Intensive be a graduation requirement.

The chief aim of Writing Intensive is to promote students' ability to write logically and clearly, using standard written English, in their major discipline or in a discipline outside their major.

Course Requirement

The Writing Intensive requirement can be satisfied in one of three ways: a) Departments/programs may specify that the Writing Intensive requirement must be met in the major; b) In cases where the requirement is not specified as required in the major, the requirement must be satisfied by taking an Writing Intensive course in the General Education program, or c) student's choice. Departments/programs wishing to have courses approved as Writing Intensive must submit the course syllabus to the General Education Review Committee which shall review and approve the course for listing as Writing Intensive. (General Education courses must also be approved for G.E. listing in the normal way.)

Criteria

Courses designated as Writing Intensive build on the basic skills and knowledge acquired by students in their foundation courses in General Education or the major. These courses are to expand students' knowledge by examining complex issues and they are to advance students' abilities to reason logically and to write clearly in prose.

The English Composition and Critical Thinking courses and the Writing Proficiency Examination are prerequisites to all Writing Intensive courses. Some Writing Intensive courses listed in the General Education program may explore more specialized topics and may thus require prerequisites, but most are to be courses of a broader nature and generally require no formal preparation in the discipline offering the course. Writing Intensive courses not in the General Education Program may also have prerequisites, but they should focus on the broad and general rather than the more technical areas of a discipline.

Students are required to write not less than 5,000 words (20 typed, double-spaced pages) of clear and logical prose in Writing Intensive classes. (Once a course is approved for Writing Intensive, all students enrolled in the class, whether they are taking it to fulfill their Writing Intensive requirement or not, must write no less than 5,000 words in order to receive a passing grade.)

An important aspect of the task of instructors is working actively with students to sharpen their analytical abilities and to improve their writing styles. Simple narrative and diary-type writing will not fulfill the requirement.

Writing assignments must be analytical in nature, discipline specific and spread out over the entire semester. (At least a total of 3,000 words of writing assignments must be due before the last two weeks of instruction.) Instructors must provide timely responses and evaluations of each writing assignment. Evaluations and comments must only be about the subject matter content but also address the writing skills. Additionally, evaluations and comments must be given to the students early enough to be reviewed before their next formal writing assignment is due.

Recommendations for Implementation

Although Writing Intensive courses have a 5,000 word requirement, this word requirement can be met by both formal and informal writing assignments. Instructors might require 10 pages each of formal and informal assignments (journals, responses to reading, for example). Yet all should require analysis in order to promote learning as well as improved writing skills.

Although the number of writing assignments depends upon the discipline and nature of the course, a study conducted by the Writing Intensive Committee in Spring 1988 discovered that those students who had been assigned a number of shorter assignments (usually four 5 page ones) reported that their writing had improved as a result, in part, of more frequent feedback. Those with only two long assignments reported that they did not feel the assignments had helped them improve their writing.

Reviewer Comments:

Heather Mummaw (mummawh) (Thu, 27 Aug 2020 21:09:20 GMT): Rollback: For deletion/editing

Key: 13787