

Office of the University Registrar
Radford University
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Radford University
P.O. Box 6904, Radford, VA 24142
Division of Academic Affairs

Cover Sheet for Proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum and
Catalog Review Committee

Note: For new courses, use the New Course Proposal Form

Proposal Number (Assigned by the Registrar):

Date: February 17, 2011

Department: POSC

Contact Person: Craig Waggaman

Course or Program ID: POSC 110 Introduction to Politics

Proposal Category (check all that apply):

Course Prerequisite Change

Course Title Change (23 characters):

Course Deletion

Course Number Change

Program Revision (Attach Revision of Existing Program Form)

New Program (Major, minor, and certificate)

Course Credit Hour Change

New Course (attach New Course Proposal Form)

Course Syllabi Change

Change to Catalog Description

Minor Change to Course

Proposal Description with Rationale (State current status, proposed change, and why the change is desired. Attach additional sheets if necessary. If the proposal in any way alters the requirements for the program, complete the Revision of Existing Program section of this form):

Proposal Description with Rationale:

POSC 110 Introduction to Politics uses literature and political philosophy to introduce students to "enduring questions and concerns of political life." The university classifies our department within the social sciences and that is an appropriate classification for some, but not all, of our classes. As we have begun the process of assessment for the new Core Curriculum based on student objectives in the area of social science, it has become painfully obvious to us that POSC 110 is really a humanities course because of its subject matter and methodology. So we are revising the official class syllabus to reflect this fact and to address the humanities student learning objectives for inclusion in the Humanities in University Core B and College Core B. We are asking that the course be dropped as a social science course in the Core Curriculum. We also took this opportunity to make other minor changes to the official syllabus. All changes are highlighted in the new course syllabus attached.

Approved proposals traditionally go into effect the next academic year. However, if seeking an alternative effective date, please indicate the requested date in the space provided below, along with reason:

Effective Date: Fall 2011

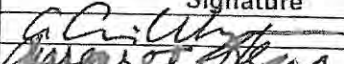


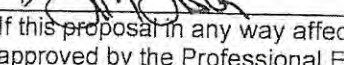

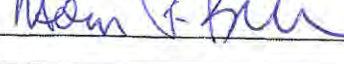

Reason for requesting an alternative effective date (please type or write in your reason for the change here):

Include a copy of the old and new syllabi to this proposal for comparison.

For Program Revisions, attach the Revision of Existing Program Form and include both the current and proposed program.

For New Course Proposals, attach the New Course Proposal and Assessment of Library Resources Forms with appropriate signatures.

Special Note: Changes to course syllabi must be submitted to the Registrar's Office on either a 3 1/4 floppy disk or ZIP disk after final approval by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Signature	Title	Date
	Department Curriculum Committee Chair	2-18-2011
	Department Chair	2-18-2011
	College Curriculum Committee Chair	3/3/11
	College Dean	
If this proposal in any way affects a professional education program, it must be submitted to and approved by the Professional Education Committee and the Faculty Senate:		
	Professional Education Committee Chair	
	General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee Chair	4/14/11
	Faculty Senate President	

	UG Curriculum & Catalog Review Committee	
	VP for Academic Affairs	

Revised 08/17/05

NEW SYLLABUS

POSC 110
Introduction to Politics

A. Catalog Entry

POSC 110. Introduction to Politics
Three Hours lecture (3).

Prerequisites: None

This course will introduce students to the concepts and methods of political by examining enduring questions and concerns of political life using political philosophy and literature. **This course has been approved for Core Curriculum credit in Humanities.**

B. Detailed Description of Content of Course

This course will introduce and explore the concepts, institutional arrangements, and processes of political life by dealing with four major queries:

1. What is politics?
2. What is human nature and its relation to politics?
3. What is the nature of citizenship?
4. What is the relationship of power and justice in political life?
5. **What are the different ways in which politics is studied?**

The queries are set forth in a manner that allows the instructor to bring the perspective of each of the discipline's subfields (political theory, American government, comparative government, and international relations) to the examination of historical and contemporary problems of government and politics.

C. Detailed Description of Conduct of Course

POSC 110 will focus on the writings of major thinkers as they relate to the queries set forth in B. An emphasis will be placed on original texts in political philosophy and on literature.

Teaching methods will include lectures, class discussion, group work, formal and informal writing projects, and various kinds of written examinations.

D. Goals and Objectives of the Course.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Students will practice thinking critically and creatively about ideas, issues, problems, and texts within political science.
2. **Students will examine and think about the relationship between politics and the human condition in the spirit of a liberal education.**
3. **Students will practice constructing logical and persuasive arguments about the political questions examined through a variety of oral and/or written assignments.**
4. **Students will work with others in a shared process of inquiry concerning political life, learning the importance of civility and open-minded dialogue as a model for democratic citizenship.**
5. Students will identify the personal and collective political values that shape decisions in public, professional, and private life, and assess the ethical implications of those decisions.

Goals for University Core B: Humanities and College Core B: Humanities

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the nature and method of inquiry in the humanities
Students will be able to explain how a particular political question is explored in literature and in political philosophy.
2. Describe and explain differing views of the meaning, value, and purpose of life
Students will be able to use examples from class texts that show important political controversies about the meaning and purpose of political life based on assumptions about what it means to be a human being.
3. Explain historical philosophical, religious or literary sources according to societal or cultural perspectives
Students will be able to examine philosophical and literary sources that address important political questions from the perspective of contemporary political values and contemporary political science.
4. Interpret and critically evaluate historical, philosophical, religious, or literary expressions of the human experience
Students will be able to interpret and critically evaluate literary and philosophical texts that explore key political aspects of the human condition.

E. Assessment Measures

Professors will assess attainment of the class objectives by a variety of techniques which could include essay examinations, in-class writing activities, take-home writing projects, and a daily or weekly evaluation of class discussions.

- Graded and ungraded homework assignments may be used to measure the student's ability to read texts carefully, to identify underlying values and assumptions, to articulate central concepts, to analyze and construct logical arguments, and to employ basic research methods.
- Journals may be used to measure the development of self-reflection and progress in critical and creative thinking about the ideas, issues, and texts of the course.
- Class discussions, debates, and small group discussion may be used to measure the student's logical reasoning and oral communication skills as well as the student's ability to work with others in a shared process of inquiry.
- Individual and group oral presentations may be used to measure the student's understanding of particular political positions or issues as well as the student's ability to present logical and persuasive arguments.
- Quizzes and objective tests may be used to measure the student's basic knowledge of the course material and the student's ability to read carefully and think with clarity.
- Essay exams may be used to measure the student's understanding of the process of asking political questions, knowledge of the course material, ability to analyze and construct arguments, and ability to think and to write with clarity.
- Faculty-developed rubrics will be used to evaluate assignments designed to measure student outcomes for the Core Curriculum credit in Humanities.

F. Other Course Information.

None.

G. APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS

DATE ACTION REVIEWED BY
January 2000 Updated to conform to revised M. J. Franck, Dept. Chair

Old Syllabus

POSC 110
Introduction to Politics

1. Catalog Entry

POSC 110. Introduction to Politics
Three Hours lecture (3).

Prerequisites: None

This course will introduce students to the concepts and methods of political by examining enduring questions and concerns of political life using political philosophy and literature. This course has been approved for General Education credit in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Area of the curriculum.

2. Detailed Description of Content of Course

This course will introduce and explore the concepts, institutional arrangements, and processes of political life by dealing with four major queries:

1. What is politics?
2. What is human nature and its relation to politics?
3. What is the nature of citizenship?
4. What is the relationship of power and justice in political life?

The queries are set forth in a manner that allows the instructor to bring the perspective of each of the discipline's subfields (political theory, American government, comparative government, and international relations) to the examination of historical and contemporary problems of government and politics.

3. Detailed Description of Conduct of Course

POSC 110 will focus on the writings of major thinkers as they relate to the queries set forth in B. An emphasis will be placed on original texts in political philosophy and on literature.

Teaching methods will include lectures, class discussion, group work, formal and informal writing projects, and various kinds of written examinations.

4. Goals and Objectives of the Course.

Broad General Education Goals

1. Students will practice thinking critically and creatively about ideas, issues, problems, and texts within political science and in terms of the relation between politics and other aspects of life.

- Students will practice constructing logical and persuasive arguments about the political questions examined through a variety of oral and written assignments.

- Students will use appropriate technologies to gather and organize information and communicate ideas concerning politics.
- Students will work with others in a shared process of inquiry concerning political life.
- Students will identify the personal and collective political values that shape decisions in public, professional, and private life, and assess the ethical implications of those decisions.

Goals for Area 8 – Social and Behavioral Sciences

1. Students will finish POSC 110 with an introductory knowledge of a variety of responses to the major queries of political life.

2. Students will complete POSC 110 with an introductory knowledge of the relationship between the questions asked in political science and the subject matter of a liberal education.

- Students will have engaged in dialectic with several of the major thinkers in political science, with the instructor, and with each other.
- Students will have completed essay projects that will make them aware of some of the major problems and provisional answers of political science

5. Assessment Measures

Professors will assess attainment of the class objectives by a variety of techniques which could include essay examinations, in-class writing activities, take-home writing projects, and a daily or weekly evaluation of class discussions.

- Graded and ungraded homework assignments may be used to measure the student's ability to read texts carefully, to identify underlying values and assumptions, to articulate central concepts, to analyze and construct logical arguments, and to employ basic research methods.
- Journals may be used to measure the development of self-reflection and progress in critical and creative thinking about the ideas, issues, and texts of the course.
- Class discussions, debates, and small group discussion may be used to measure the student's logical reasoning and oral communication skills as well as the student's ability to work with others in a shared process of inquiry.
- Individual and group oral presentations may be used to measure the student's understanding of particular political positions or issues as well as the student's ability to present logical and persuasive arguments.
- Quizzes and objective tests may be used to measure the student's basic knowledge of the course material and the student's ability to read carefully and think with clarity.
- Essay exams may be used to measure the student's understanding of the process of asking political questions, knowledge of the course material, ability to analyze and construct arguments, and ability to think and to write with clarity.
- Assignments utilizing the world wide web may be used to measure the students understanding of basic computer technologies and ability to assess the values and accuracy of available information.

6. Other Course Information.

None.

7. APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS

DATE ACTION REVIEWED BY

January 2000 Updated to conform to revised M. J. Franck, Dept. Chair