**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE (page 1)**

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|---|---|
| COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: | January 1976 |
| COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: | September 2014 |
| COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: | September 2019 |
| *(six years after UEC approval)* | *(month, year)* |

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.

Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

| POSC 300 | Political Science | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| COURSE NAME/NUMBER | FACULTY/DEPARTMENT | UFV CREDITS |

Research Methods and Approaches in Political Science
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This course will provide an overview of the principal research methods and approaches in political science. The course will outline the principles of qualitative, quantitative, and comparative research methods, and students will be introduced to various approaches in political science, such as normative theory, behaviouralism, rational choice, feminism, institutionalism, and Marxism.

Note: Students with credit for POSC 200 cannot take this course for further credit.

PREREQUISITES: 60 university-level credits, including nine credits of lower-level Political Science
COREQUISITES:
PRE or COREQUISITES:

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**
(a) Replaces: **POSC 200**
(b) Cross-listed with:
(c) Cannot take: **POSC 200** for further credit.

**SERVICE COURSE TO:** *(department/program)*

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** **45**

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lectures: | **30** | Hrs |
| Seminar: | **15** | Hrs |
| Laboratory: | | Hrs |
| Field experience: | | Hrs |
| Student directed learning: | | Hrs |
| Other (specify): | | Hrs |

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:
Hours per day:

**OTHER:**
Maximum enrolment: 28
Expected frequency of course offerings: Every other year
*(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only) | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department) | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE: | ☐ Yes | ☒ No |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Course designer(s): | **Hamish Telford** | | |
| Department Head: | **Hamish Telford** | Date approved: | **March 2013** |
| Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC) | | Date of meeting: | **March 22, 2013** |
| Curriculum Committee chair: | **Tetsuomi Anzai** | Date approved: | **April 12, 2013** |
| Dean/Associate VP: | **Jacqueline Nolte** | Date approved: | **April 12, 2013** |
| Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval | | Date of meeting: | **April 26, 2013** |

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the principles of case study and comparative research.
- Explain the principles of quantitative and qualitative research.
- Describe the main approaches employed in political science research.
- Review and critique published research in political science that employs different methodological and epistemological approaches.

**METHODS:** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Methods will vary with instructors but will typically include lecture, classroom discussion, video presentations, and guest speakers.

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):**

☒ Examination(s) ☒ Portfolio assessment ☒ Interview(s) ☐ Other (specify):

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:** *[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts might be:]*

David Marsh and Gerry Stoker, *Theory and Methods in Political Science* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2002).

Paul Kellstedt and Guy Whitten, *Fundamentals of Political Science Research* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Peter Burnham, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry, *Research Methods in Political Science* ((Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2002).

Colin Hay, *Political Analysis: A Critical Introduction* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2002).

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994).

John Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

John Gerring, *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework, 2d ed.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Leslie Paul Thiele, *Thinking Politics: Perspectives in Ancient, Modern, and Post-Modern Political Theory* (Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers, 1997).

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:** None

**STUDENT EVALUATION:** *[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]*

| | |
|---|---|
| Participation: | 10% |
| Critical review: | 20% |
| Research paper: | 40% |
| Final exam: | 30% |

**COURSE CONTENT:** *[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]*

Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Ontology & Epistemology in Political Science
Week 3: Case Study & Comparative Methods
Week 4: Principles of Qualitative Research
Week 5: Principles of Quantitative Research
Week 6: Normative Political Theory
Week 7: Rational Choice Theory
Week 8: Behaviouralism
Week 9: Feminism
Week 10: Institutionalism
Week 11: Interprevatism
Week 12: Marxism
Week 13: Review