

**Core Curriculum Course Submission
Criteria: Social Science**

1. General Information

a. Originating Person	b. Contact Person's E-mail	c. Contact Phone	d. Date
Joseph Giammo	jdgiammo@ualr.edu	(501)569-3331	04/15/2014
e. College/School	f. Department/Program		
College of Social Sciences & Communications	Political Science		

Submission Statement
 By submitting this form, we acknowledge our understanding that the Core Council has the authority to review approved courses to ensure they continue to meet the established goals and outcomes of that category of the core; that the Council has authority to develop a core assessment program; and that the Council will be developing review and assessment policies by the end of 2014. Further, we agree that if this course is approved, we will participate in the university-wide assessment of the core.

Chair and Dean Awareness
 Your department chairperson and college dean must be made aware of your submission for core. By submitting this form, you are acknowledging that this has occurred.

2. Course Information

a. Course ID	b. Current Title
POLS 2301	Introduction to Political Science

c. Catalog Description
 Introduction to social science concepts as applied to political analysis. Analysis of individuals, groups, and society, particularly the study of social, economic, and political structures and behavior. Introduction to the discipline of political science as a social science, including enduring questions about politics, nature of political analysis, major theoretical and empirical approaches, and critiques of the discipline.

d. How will your department ensure a level of consistency among sections of this course? Who will be responsible for this?
 The department chair will share information about the core criteria for this course with all faculty teaching it and review syllabi and textbook selections for all sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, all faculty (including adjunct instructors) participate in a peer review process within the department.

Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Knowledge 1 – Concepts, methodologies, findings, and applications of mathematics and the social and natural sciences, engineering and technology.	1. develop foundational knowledge of the theoretical perspectives used in one or more social science disciplines;	Learning Objectives 1.1 discuss and analyze political issues using multiple theoretical perspectives from the political science discipline, including, for example, structural functionalism, systems theory, and rational choice approaches.	Assignments 1.1 This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of political issues and theoretical perspectives and will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	Explanation 1.1 Faculty members will assign students to read about and critically analyze political issues using multiple theoretical perspectives from political science. Students will write about what they have learned through exams or other written assignments.
	2. develop foundational knowledge of how to use scientific methods and various analytic techniques to answer questions about societal issues;	Learning Objectives 1.2 discuss how to appropriately apply the scientific method to answer political questions.	Assignments 1.2 This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of scientific method and examples of its application to political questions. Students will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	Explanation 1.2 Over the course of the semester, faculty members will assign readings and lead class discussions about the scientific method and how it can be used to answer political questions. Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the material through exams, essays, or other written assignments.
	3. develop foundational knowledge of real world applications of the social sciences;	Learning Objectives 1.3 discuss and analyze political issues in the real world and apply the knowledge they gain to better understand these issues and to evaluate potential solutions to political problems.	Assignments 1.3 This learning objective will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of real world political problems and potential solutions to them. Students will be assessed through exams, essays, or other written assignments.	Explanation 1.3 Over the course of the semester, faculty members will assign readings and lead class discussions about real world political problems and potential solutions to them. Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the material through exams, essays, or other written assignments.

Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Skills 1 - Communication	1. develop oral and/or written skills while communicating about social science theories, methods, and applications;	Learning Objectives 1.1 discuss political science theories, methods, and applications in language that can be differentiated from partisan or ideological political analysis, orally and/or in writing.	Assignments 1.1 This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions, oral presentations, and/or written assignments about the course materials, about current events, and/or about other issues in both domestic and international politics. Students will be required to write about such issues, either on exams or through other assignments and will receive feedback from faculty on their writing skills.	Explanation 1.1 Faculty members will lead student discussions and/or assign students to complete oral presentations. Students will be required to write about a variety of issues related to political science. In all cases, faculty will provide feedback to students on their communication skills.
Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Skills 2 - Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, and Solving Problems Individually and Collaboratively	1. develop an understanding of how evidence from different methods of inquiry supports or weakens various theoretical perspectives;	Learning Objectives 2.1 analyze and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different methods of inquiry (including both quantitative and qualitative analysis) and their relationships with various theoretical perspectives in political science.	Assignments 2.1 This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments about the course materials, including evaluating different methods of inquiry. Students will be required to discuss the merits of various methods of inquiry and their relationships with the theoretical perspectives in political science in class discussions and through exams and/or other written assignments.	Explanation 2.1 Faculty members will lead discussions and present lectures on different methods of inquiry, their relationships with various theoretical perspectives in political science, and how to evaluate evidence. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of these topics through discussion, essays, exams, and/or other assignments.

	2. develop an awareness of contextual impacts and personal assumptions on inquiry, methods, and analysis within a social science discipline;	Learning Objectives 2.2 analyze and discuss how context and personal assumptions impact inquiry, methods, and analysis in political science.	Assignments 2.2 This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions and written assignments about the context of political problems and the impact of personal assumptions. Students will be required to discuss how context and personal assumptions influence inquiry, methods, and analysis when addressing issues in political science in class discussions and through exams and/or other written assignments.	Explanation 2.2 Faculty members will lead discussions and present lectures on how context and personal assumptions influence inquiry, methods, and analysis when addressing issues in political science. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of these concepts and their application through discussion, essays, exams, and/or other assignments.
Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Skills 3 – Information Technology	1. develop abilities to use current technologies for inquiry, exploration, and communication;	Learning Objectives 3.1 use library databases and other appropriate technologies to find relevant source materials, including scholarly articles, government reports, and national and international news sources.	Assignments 3.1 This learning objective will be met through assignments such as essays, research papers, and oral presentations.	Explanation 3.1 These types of assignments will require students to gather appropriate supporting materials using current technologies relevant in the field.
Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will..	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Values 1 – Personal Responsibility and Ethical Behavior	1. develop commitment to academic integrity and take responsibility for completing assignments in an ethical manner, working on one's own when required and acknowledging resources when used;	Learning Objectives 1.1 appropriately cite materials and adhere to the UALR Code of Student Conduct.	Assignments 1.1 This learning objective will be met through exams, essays, research papers, or other written and/or oral assignments.	Explanation 1.1 Students will be expected to do all of their own work in the course and to provide proper citations for all sources used in written and/or oral assignments.

	<p>2. develop an understanding of the ethical obligation to be precise and accurate with data; and understand how this obligation applies to communication of information;</p>	<p>Learning Objectives 1.2</p> <p>understand the ethical obligation to be precise and accurate with data in conducting political research. Students will understand the consequences of political science research and the ways in which research is and can be used to shape public policy.</p>	<p>Assignments 1.2</p> <p>This learning objective will be met through course discussion, exams, essays, research papers, or other written and/or oral assignments.</p>	<p>Explanation 1.2</p> <p>Faculty members will lead discussions and present lectures on the importance of being precise and accurate with data, the impact of failing to do so, and the importance of responsibly communicating findings. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of these concepts and their application through discussion, essays, exams, and/or other assignments.</p>
	<p>3 understand the ethics of research with humans;</p>	<p>Learning Objectives-1.3</p> <p>understand the importance of ethically conducting research on human subjects.</p>	<p>Assignments-1.3</p> <p>This learning objective will be met through in-class discussions, oral and/or written assignments, or exams. Students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical research on human subjects in class discussions and through exams and/or other written assignments.</p>	<p>Explanation- 1.3</p> <p>Faculty members will lead discussions and present lectures on the importance of conducting research on human subjects ethically. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of this topic through discussion, essays, exams, and/or other assignments.</p>

Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will...	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Values 2 – Civic Responsibility	1. develop an understanding of the ethical implications of social science research, methods, knowledge in addressing social issues;	Learning Objectives 2.1 discuss the ethical implications of political science research, methods, and knowledge in addressing political issues.	Assignments 2.1 This learning outcome will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of past and current political science research and its implications for addressing political and social issues. Student understanding will be assessed through class discussions, exams, essays, and/or other assignments.	Explanation 2.1 Faculty will lead class discussions and present lectures on the ethical implications of political science research, including its impact on and application to past and current political and social problems. Student understanding will be assessed through class discussions, exams, essays, and/or other assignments.
Educational Goals	Learning Outcomes students will..	Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...	Assignments	Explanation
Value 3-Global and cultural Understanding	1. develop awareness of multiple cultures and respect for alternate world views.	Learning Objectives 3.1 discuss the role and impact of political science in multiple cultures from diverse world views. Students will learn about diverse political systems (e.g. presidential vs. parliamentary systems) and the political cultures that influence the way in which these systems are designed. Students will analyze and discuss political problems from multiple world views.	Assignments 3.1 This learning outcome will be met through reading assignments, class lectures, and class discussions of how political systems and politics differ across cultures. Problems will be discussed and analyzed from multiple world views. Student understanding will be assessed through class discussions, exams, essays, and/or other assignments.	Explanation 3.1 Faculty will lead class discussions and present lectures on the impact of culture and world view on political systems, politics, and answers to important political questions. Student understanding will be assessed through class discussion, exams, essays, and/or other assignments.

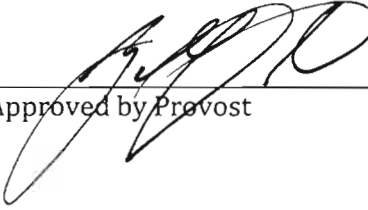
Additional Comments:

Belinda Blewins-Knabe

Approved by Core Curriculum Committee

5-14-14

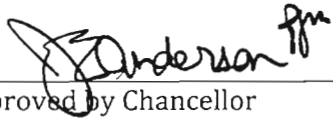
Date



Approved by Provost

5/23/2014

Date



Approved by Chancellor

5/28/14

Date