

Request for Courses in the Core Curriculum

Originating Department or College: Public Affairs and Social Research

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Course Number and Title: PSCI 2306: American State Government

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed Catalog Add/Change Form

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and/or be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements.)

\*The following learning outcomes will be standardized across syllabi. Upon discretion of each instructor other outcomes may be added as deemed necessary.

Critical Thinking:

Students will be able to identify and synthesize information about the state political system; including its history, constitutional and legal foundations, political values and ideas, governing institutions, and policymaking processes.

Communication:

Students will be able to examine the state political system by exhibiting strong oral and written arguments and analysis.

Social Responsibility:

Students will confirm their knowledge of civic responsibility by identifying the rights and duties of citizens and how government and citizens' involvement can have a positive impact on Texas state government.

Personal Responsibility:

Students will debate how political choices, actions, and consequences are linked to a range of proper and improper alternatives and identify ethically justifiable options to take.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to the appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Personal Responsibility

Written Communication

Social Responsibility

Oral Communication  
 Visual Communication  
 Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessment assigned in your course must include assessment of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicate the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

**Assignment:** Each semester the PASR department will randomly select one section of PSCI 2306 to administer the assessment assignment. The proposed assignment will cover all the competency areas in an essay. Each student will have to answer the question twice: during the first 2 weeks of the semester and the last 2 weeks of the semester.

Below is only an example of the essay question that we will ask the student. The question will be formalized spring 2013.

Please answer the following question in a 250 word essay.

What roles do and should citizens play in American democracy? Do you believe that American democracy is a fair system of government? Why or why not?

Will the syllabus vary across multiple sections of the course?  Yes  No  
If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across the sections:

We distinguish between the assessment assignment and course assignment. Each section of PSCI is comparable to each other although tests and writing assignments may vary in length and in focus areas of American National Government.

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every five (5) years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their courses.

Reviewed and approved by the Core Curriculum Committee on February 1, 2013.