Course information:
Copy and paste current course information from Class Search/Course Catalog

School of Politics and Global Studies
Department: Political Science

Academic Unit: Political Science
Subject: POS
Number: 294
Title: Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics
Units: 3

Is this a cross-listed course? No
If yes, please identify course(s)

Is this a shared course? (choose one) No
If so, list all academic units offering this course

Course description:

Requested designation: Cultural Diversity in the United States-C
Note: a separate proposal is required for each designation requested

Eligibility:
Permanent numbered courses must have completed the university's review and approval process.
For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact the General Studies Program Office at (480) 965-0739.

Area(s) proposed course will serve:
A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study.

Checklists for general studies designations:
Complete and attach the appropriate checklist
- Literacy and Critical Inquiry core courses (L)
- Mathematics core courses (MA)
- Computer/statistics/quantitative applications core courses (CS)
- Humanities, Fine Arts and Design core courses (HU)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses (SR)
- Natural Sciences core courses (SQ/SG)
- Global Awareness courses (G)
- Historical Awareness courses (H)
- Cultural Diversity in the United States courses (C)

A complete proposal should include:
- Signed General Studies Program Course Proposal Cover Form
- Criteria Checklist for the area
- Course Syllabus
- Table of Contents from the textbook, and/or lists of course materials

Contact information:
Name: Kim Fridkin
Phone: 965-4195
Mail code: 3902
E-mail: fridkin@asu.edu

Department Chair/Director approval: (Required)
Chair/Director name (Typed): Kim Fridkin
Date: 6/13/13
Chair/Director (Signature):

Rev. 1/94, 4/95, 7/98, 4/00, 1/02, 10/08, 11/11/12/11, 7/12
Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES [C]

Rationale and Objectives

The contemporary "culture" of the United States involves the complex interplay of many different cultures that exist side by side in various states of harmony and conflict. The history of the United States involves the experiences not only of different groups of European immigrants and their descendants but also of diverse groups of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans—all of whom played significant roles in the development of contemporary culture and together shape the future of the United States. At the same time, the recognition that gender, class, and religious differences cut across all distinctions of race and ethnicity offers an even richer variety of perspectives from which to view ourselves. Awareness of our cultural diversity and its multiple sources can illuminate our collective past, present, and future and can help us to achieve greater mutual understanding and respect.

The objective of the Cultural Diversity requirement is to promote awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity within the contemporary United States through the study of the cultural, social, or scientific contributions of women and minority groups, examination of their experiences in the U.S., or exploration of successful or unsuccessful interactions between and among cultural groups.
Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YES</th>
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<th>Identify Documentation Submitted</th>
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**ASU--[C] CRITERIA**

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

1. A Cultural Diversity course must meet the following general criteria:

   - The course must contribute to an understanding of cultural diversity in contemporary U.S. Society.

   - Syllabus, Section IV
   - Textbook: America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality at the Movies

2. A Cultural Diversity course must then meet at least one of the following specific criteria:

   a. The course is an in-depth study of culture-specific elements, cultural experiences, or cultural contributions (in areas such as education, history, language, literature, art, music, science, politics, work, religion, and philosophy) of gender*, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority groups** within the United States.

   - Syllabus, Section IV
   - Textbook: America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality at the Movies

   b. The course is primarily a comparative study of the diverse cultural contributions, experiences, or worldviews of two or more gender*, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority groups** within the United States.

   - Syllabus, Section IV
   - Textbook: America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality at the Movies

   *Gender groups would encompass categories such as the following: women, men, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender individuals, etc.

   **Cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or linguistic minority groups in the U.S. would include categories such as the following: Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans/First Peoples, Asian Americans, Jewish Americans, Muslim Americans, members of the deaf community, etc.

   A central theme of the course is the role of women, ethnic and racial minorities, and the working poor in the political history in the U.S. and in their representation in political film.
Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (from check sheet)</th>
<th>How course meets spirit (contextualized specific examples in next column</th>
<th>Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Example-See 2b. Compares 2 U.S. cultures</td>
<td>Example-Compares Latino &amp; African American Music</td>
<td>Example-See Syllabus Pg. 5</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>The second half of the course (as well as the entirety of one of the textbooks) is devoted to understanding the role of cultural diversity in our political history. We will examine how diversity has been included and excluded in the political history of the U.S. as well as how gender, race, ethnicity and class has been represented in political films in the U.S.</td>
<td>Syllabus, Section I and Section IV as well as text by Benshoff and Griffin</td>
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<td>2c</td>
<td>This course focuses on the study of the political dimension of relations between and among gender, racial, ethnic, and other linguistic minorities within the United States</td>
<td>Syllabus, Section I and Section IV as well as textbook, “America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality at the Movies”</td>
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Course Catalog Description:

Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics
The course will trace the evolution of American Politics over the last century by examining how film portrays (1) major political events (2) as well as changes in the role of race, class, gender, and sexuality in American politics.
POS 294: Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

Spring 2014                                      Professor Kim Fridkin
Classroom:                                        fridkin@asu.edu
Office Hrs                                         Office: 6752 Coor Hall
Class Time:                                       

**Purpose of Course:** In this course, we will rely on visual and aural texts (i.e., film) to trace the evolution of American Politics over the last century. The course will examine the major historical events (i.e., the Depression, the Holocaust, the Vietnam War, 9/11) by looking at films written during or about these events. The course will also examine how the nature of political film has changed over the same time frame. Furthermore, since the political history of the United States involves a diversity of experiences, with different groups playing important roles in the political events of this country, we will spend time examining changes in the role of race, class, gender, and sexuality in American politics.

The requirements for this course are

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<td>Final Examination</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Required Reading**

Harry M. Benshoff and Sean Griffin (2009). *America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality at the Movies*. Wiley-Blackwell

Schedule of Topics

I. Understanding and Interpreting Political Films (Week of January 13)
   Benshoff and Griffin, Chapter 1
   Christensen and Hass, Chapter 1-3

II. The Structure and History of Filmmaking (Week of January 20)
   Benshoff and Griffin, Chapter 2
   Christensen and Hass, Appendix 1

III. Political Films By Decade
   1910s-1930s (Week of January 27)
   Events to Be Covered: World War I, The Great Depression
   Readings: Christensen and Hass, Chapter 4-5
   Film to Be Viewed: Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

   1940s-1950s (Week of Week of February 3)
   Events to Be Covered: World War II, Authoritarianism, Communism
   Readings: Christensen and Hass, Chapter 6-7
   Film to Be Viewed: The Manchurian Candidate

   1960s-1970s (Week of February 10)
   Events to Be Covered: Vietnam War, Civil Rights, Watergate,
   Readings: Christensen and Hass, Chapter 8-9
   Film to Be Viewed: All the President’s Men

   1980s (Week of February 17)
   Events to Be Covered: New Patriotism and Capitalism, Iran-Contra Scandal
   Readings: Christensen and Hass, Chapter 10
   Film to Be Viewed: Silkwood

   1990s and Beyond 9/11 (February 24)
   Events to Be Covered: Collapse of Soviet Union, 2000 Election, 9/11, Recession,
   Readings: Christensen and Hass, Chapter 11
   Film to Be Viewed: Wag the Dog

IV Political Films by Topic

   Ethnic Minorities and Film (Week of March 3-Week of March 17)
   Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 3-7
   Films to Be Viewed: Do The Right Thing; Little Big Man
Class and American Film (Week of March 24-Week of March 31)
Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 8-9
Films to Be Viewed: *Meet John Doe, Norma Rae*

Gender and American Film (Week of April 7-Week of April 14)
Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 10-13
Films to Be Viewed: *State of the Union, The Contender*

Sexuality and American Film (Week of April 21)
Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 14-15
Film to Be Viewed: *Milk*

**V. What We Know from Political Film** (Week of April 28)
Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 17, Christensen and Hass, Chapter 15
POS 294: Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

Spring 2014
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Office Hrs
Class Time:

Professor Kim Fridkin
fridkin@asu.edu
Office: 6752 Coor Hall

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TERRY CHRISTENSEN AND PETER J. HAAS
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   *Elizabeth Ann Haas, PhD*

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