



**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL STUDIES COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM**

Course information:

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

Academic Unit	<u>School of Politics and Global Studies</u>	Department	<u>Political Science</u>
Subject	<u>POS</u>	Number	<u>294</u>
		Title	<u>Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics</u>
			Units: <u>3</u>
Is this a cross-listed course? If yes, please identify course(s)	<u>No</u>		
Is this a shared course? Course description:	(choose one) If so, list all academic units offering this course		<u>No</u>

Requested designation: Humanities, Fine Arts and Design-HU

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 (SB)
- Natural Sciences core courses (SQ/SG)
- Global Awareness courses (G)
- Historical Awareness courses (H)
- Cultural Diversity in the United States courses (C)

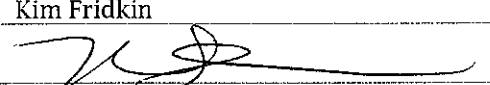
A complete proposal should include:

- 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:

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Mail code	<u>3902</u>	E-mail:	<u>fridkin@asu.edu</u>

Department Chair/Director approval: (Required)

Chair/Director name (Typed):	<u>Kim Fridkin</u>	Date:	<u>6/13/13</u>
Chair/Director (Signature):			

Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS AND DESIGN [HU]

Rationale and Objectives

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The fine arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the fine arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of art work and design.

The Humanities, Fine Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies Program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of art work and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

Revised October 2008

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

ASU - [HU] CRITERIA			
HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS AND DESIGN [HU] courses must meet <i>either</i> 1, 2, or 3 <i>and</i> at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria A CENTRAL AND SUBSTANTIAL PORTION of the course content.			
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Emphasize the study of values, of the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems, and/or aesthetic experience.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of written, aural, or visual texts, and/or the historical development of textual traditions.	Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3 of the course will deal with interpretation of aural and visual texts as well as the historical development of political films
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of material objects, images and spaces, and/or their historical development.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. In addition, to qualify for the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design designation a course must meet one or more of the following requirements:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Concerns the development of human thought, including emphasis on the analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Concerns aesthetic systems and values, literary and visual arts.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Emphasizes aesthetic experience in the visual and performing arts, including music, dance, theater, and in the applied arts, including architecture and design.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Deepen awareness of the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.	By learning about the production, structure, and history of political film as an art form, students will deepen their analysis of the film as a type of literary tradition
		THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses devoted primarily to developing a skill in the creative or performing arts, including courses that are primarily studio classes in the Herberger College of the Arts and in the College of Design. 	

ASU - [HU] CRITERIA		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses devoted primarily to developing skill in the use of a language – However, language courses that emphasize cultural study and the study of literature can be allowed.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses which emphasize the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses devoted primarily to teaching skills.	

Course Prefix	Number	Title	Designation
POS	294	Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics	HU

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.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
2	Students will increase their understanding of political films as visual and aural texts by learning about film techniques and aspects of film production. In addition, students will learn about the history of the political film in the U.S.	These topics will be covered explicitly during the first 1/2 of the course (Sections I-III of the syllabus), but implicitly during the remainder of the course. Fifteen chapters in two textbooks will explicitly deal with these issues.
4d	By learning about the history of political film as well as the techniques used in filmmaking, students will gain a deeper awareness of the analysis of the film as an aural and visual text.	We will cover these topics in detail in the first 1/2 of the course in Section I-III. For example, Chapter 2 of the Christensen and Hass text is titled, "The Making of a Message: Film Production and Techniques and Political Messages" (page 41-60).

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
Classroom:
Office Hrs
Class Time:

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

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

Course Requirement	Percentage of Grade
Hourly Exam #1	20%
Hourly Exam #2	20%
Hourly Exam #3	20%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

Required Reading

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

Terry Christensen and Peter J. Haas (2005). *Projecting Politics: Political Messages in American Films*. M.E. Sharpe.

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 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

SECOND EDITION

Harry M. Benshoff and Sean Griffin

AMERICAN CULTURE

REPRESENTING RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND SEXUALITY AT THE MOVIES



 WILEY-BLACKWELL

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PROJECTING POLITICS

POLITICAL MESSAGES
IN AMERICAN FILMS

TERRY CHRISTENSEN AND PETER J. HAAS

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