



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?	<u>No</u>		
If yes, please identify course(s)	_____		
Is this a shared course?	(choose one) If so, list all academic units offering this course		<u>No</u>
Course description:	_____		

Requested designation: Social and Behavioral Sciences-SB
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)

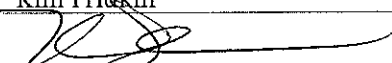
A complete proposal should include:

- 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:

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): 

addendum*

From: Kim Fridkin
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 11:13 AM
To: Phyllis Lucie
Subject: Re: POS 294

I would like to request a revise and resubmit regarding my proposed course (POS 294).

Social and Behavioral Sciences Rationale

In this course, I will definitely be relying on social science to explain the importance of the topics and the events covered in the course.

For example, when discussing events like the Great Depression, I will explain the impact the Great Depression had on people's political orientations. For example, I will discuss the literature on political realignments (e.g., Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes). In discussing communism and authoritarianism, I will discuss social science literature about authoritarian personality (Adorn and updates on Adorno by people like Stenner). Similarly, when discussing Watergate, I will focus on how Watergate led to changes in campaign fundraising and financing and discuss how these changes have evolved over the years, including recent changes like the Citizen United case. When discussing the role of ethnicity, gender, and race, I will explore how gender, race, and ethnicity influence people's views of politics (e.g., Bobo and Gillian, my own work, etc) as well as work on racism and sexism in politics (e.g., symbolic racism, gender differences in media treatment of men and women candidates, etc.).

In general, when explaining the topics coverage in this class, I will rely heavily on social science research to explain the significance of these topics and how these various topics influence people's views of politics as well as how these events influence changes in political processes at the institutional level.

Please let me know if you need more information. Engaging the social science literature is something that I will do explicitly during the length of this class given by background and expertise.

Kim Fridkin, Ph.D.

Professor , School of Politics and Global Studies

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ 85287-3902

Phone: 480-965-4195

Fax: 480-965-3929

From: Phyllis Lucie <phyllis.lucie@asu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 12:36 PM
To: Kim Fridki <kahn@asu.edu>
Subject: POS 294

I am sorry to inform you that your course POS 294 Watching Politics was not approved to receive either the Social & Behavioral Sciences (SB), or the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design (HU) general studies designations at the General Studies Council meeting yesterday.

The subcommittees provided the following rationales:

Social and Behavioral Sciences Rationale (request to revise and resubmit):

The application emphasizes the use of film (humanities/art based) to explain politics. Although some political and historical perspectives are suggested in the application and syllabus, better explanation about the substantive integration of social behavioral theory is needed.

Humanities Rationale (request to revise and resubmit):

We would like to see more information on the syllabus, before the course can be approved: What do the exams consist of (essays, short answer, multiple choice)? Is there a writing requirement for the course? How do students engage in analysis/interpretation other than (presumably) in the exams? What are the objectives or learning outcomes for the course?

Both Patrick Bixby (Humanities, Chair) and Michael Mokwa (Social & Behavioral Sciences, Chair) will be happy to answer questions.

Regards,

Phyllis Lucie

Curriculum Coordinator, Curricular Activities & Actions
Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost
Arizona State University
Phone - 480-965-0739

Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES [SB]

Rationale and Objectives

The importance of the social and behavioral sciences is evident in both the increasing number of scientific inquiries into human behavior and the amount of attention paid to those inquiries. In both private and public sectors people rely on social scientific findings to assess the social consequences of large-scale economic, technological, scientific, and cultural changes.

Social scientists' observations about human behavior and their unique perspectives on human events make an important contribution to civic dialogue. Today, those insights are particularly crucial due to the growing economic and political interdependence among nations.

Courses proposed for General Studies designation in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area must demonstrate emphases on: (1) social scientific theories and principles, (2) the methods used to acquire knowledge about cultural or social events and processes, and (3) the impact of social scientific understanding on the world.

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

ASU--[SB] CRITERIA					
A SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE [SB] course should meet all of the following criteria. If not, a rationale for exclusion should be provided.					
YES	NO		Identify Documentation Submitted		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction.	Syllabus		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Course content emphasizes the study of social behavior such as that found in: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY </td> <td style="width: 60%; vertical-align: top;">Political Behavior</td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY 	Political Behavior	Syllabus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANTHROPOLOGY • ECONOMICS • CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY • HISTORY 	Political Behavior				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Course emphasizes: a. the distinct knowledge base of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., sociological anthropological). OR b. the distinct methods of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., ethnography, historical analysis).	Syllabus		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Course illustrates use of social and behavioral science perspectives and data.	Syllabus, the course looks at political events through the lens of history as well as political science		
		THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE [SB] AREA EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE CONCERNS:			
		• Courses with primarily fine arts, humanities, literary, or philosophical content.			
		• Courses with primarily natural or physical science content.			
		• Courses with predominantly applied orientation for professional skills or training purposes.			
		• Courses emphasizing primarily oral, quantitative, or written skills.			

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

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)
1	The course is designed for students to understand significant political events during the last century.	Section III of the Syllabus
2	The entire course emphasizes the study of political behavior, both overtime and among diverse groups of political actors	Section III and Section IV of the Syllabus
3-4	The course will utilize research from political science to inform the political phenomena displayed in the films and illustrated by political events. For example, when learning about women and political film, we will discuss the role of gender stereotypes in political decision-making	Section III and Section IV of the Syllabus

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 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)

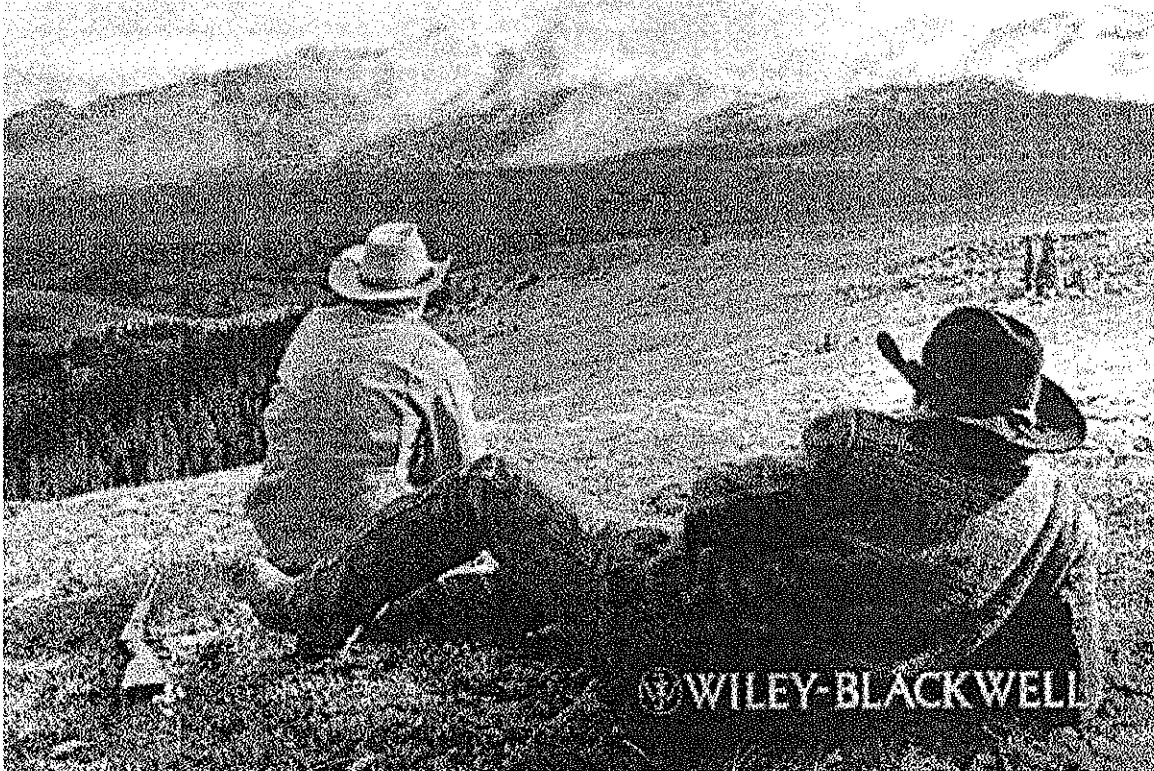
Readings: Benshoff and Griffin, Chapters 17, Christensen and Hass,
Chapter 15

SECOND EDITION

Harry M. Ranshoff and Sean Griffin

AMERICA ON FILM

REPRESENTING RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND SEXUALITY AT THE MOVIES

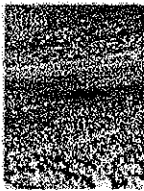


WILEY-BLACKWELL

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PROJECTING POLITICS

POLITICAL MESSAGES
IN AMERICAN FILMS

TERRY CHRISTENSEN AND PETER J. HAAS

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