PROPOSAL TO LIST A COURSE, OR TO RENEW THE LISTING OF A COURSE,
IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION SOCIAL SCIENCES AREA
AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

X Renewal  New Listing

Course designation, number, and title: (e.g.: PHIL/1000/Introduction to Philosophy)

Poli  1001  Fundamental Issues of Politics

Course designation  Course number  Course title

Semester credits: 3  Contact hours per week: Lecture: 3  Laboratory: 

Department (or other unit) offering the course and proposing its inclusion: Poli

College or School: Humanities and Social Sciences

Please attach the requested information. Submit a single electronic copy (pdf file) bearing unit and college/school signatures to gened@lsv.edu.

Chair of the proposing unit, affirming approval by its faculty or appropriate faculty committee:

Signature:  
Typed or printed name:  
Date: April 25, 2012

Dean of College or School, affirming support of the proposal:

Signature:  
Typed or printed name:  
Date: 

Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on General Education, affirming approval by the Committee:

Signature:  
Typed or printed name:  
Date: 

Office of Academic Affairs:

Signature:  
Typed or printed name:  
Date: 
Proposal to Renew the Listing of Political Science 1001
In General Education – Social Science -- at Louisiana State University

1. Attached is a syllabus for Political Science 1001 that includes the course description, reading assignments, statement of general education goals in social science, description of assignments and examinations used to assess student learning, and an outline of the subject matter of the course.

2. Political Science 1001 is a broad, single section, general introduction to the fundamental issues of politics with a typical enrollment of 250-350 students. It is designed to be a comprehensive course that introduces students to the study of politics. More specifically it is designed to introduce students to the following: the nature of human beings, how human beings organize themselves into political societies, the origins of political consciousness, the nature of power, authority, order and disorder, political cultures and ideologies, justice, liberation, identity, and civic virtue. Finally, the course is intended to provide an introduction to how political scientists construct normative arguments about politics; how they engage in the empirical study of politics; and how conflict is resolved in different political societies. All of these objectives fall under the rubric of the general education design for the course, which is to give students an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

3. The required readings for the course along with the exams, quizzes, and essay assignments are all designed to provide students various opportunities for developing an “understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.”

The specific general education social science objective will be assessed in this course include the items indicated below. The assessment will be conducted during the fall semesters of each year. During those semesters, the instructors of this course will gather to discuss and select the appropriate assessment questions.

This will be assessed by a variety of multiple choice questions on the examinations given to students. Approximately 10 to 15 questions that assess this competency will be selected from the final examination. Examples of these are:

The classic Aristotelian mixed constitution includes which of the following?

A. Mixing the principles of aristocracy and democracy.
B. Balancing the interests of social classes within the power structure of the state
C. Allow Substantial numbers of Citizens to participate in governance but limit their access to certain offices of government.
D. B & C
E. A, B, & C

The process by which human beings learn the values of their political culture is called:

A. Socialism
B. Capitalism
C. Efficacy
D. Socialization
E. Ideology
In the ancient Hebrew theocracy, the voice that tries to explain why the people suffer; the voice that holds the King to standards of justice is called:

A. The priestly voice.
B. The voice of the covenant.
C. The prophetic voice.
D. The voice of Hulda.
E. The voice of Babylon.

Which of the following is NOT a component of Marx's notion of the infrastructure?

A. The tools of a society.  
B. The laws and politics of a society  
C. The productive forces of a society.  
D. The economic classes of a society

Assessment scores will be tabulated according to percentage of students who fall into the categories below, as follows:

- 90% = Exceeds Expectations
- 70 - 89% = Met Expectations
- Under 70% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.

* Alternative Assessment of the objective: A Conflict Resolution Essay

Direction: Students will be asked to apply what they have learned in the course to the problem of conflict resolution. Students will have just completed an examination of ethics and politics, most notably in the philosophy of Aristotle. Their task in this assignment will be to apply what they have learned to the problem of conflict resolution. Distributive justice always involves choices about valued things: income, education, healthcare, retirement security, and a host of others. Very often those choices involve conflicts between contending values and the groups that hold those values. The assignment is to select a distributive justice issue, identify the value conflicts involved in the issue (preferably two major conflicts) and discuss how best to resolve the conflicts in an effective, fair, peaceful, and equitable manner.

A group of graduate assistants will assess each of the conflict resolution assignments. They will use the following criteria in calculating the percentage of students who fall into the categories below:

- Essay demonstrates in a precise and critical fashion the nature of a conflict and how it can be peacefully resolve = 90% & Above = Exceeds Expectations
- Essay demonstrates in a precise fashion the nature of the conflict, but without significant critical perspective = 80-89% = Meets Expectations
- Essay demonstrates a general sense of conflict and conflict resolution techniques = 70-79% = Meets Expectations
- Essay demonstrates little understanding of conflict but effort was made to state general perspective on the issue = 60-76% = Did Not Meet Expectations
- Essay demonstrates little understanding and little effort to state and resolve problem of conflict resolution = Below 60% = Did Not Meet Expectations

It is expected that if 70% of the students meet or exceed expectations, the objective will have been met.
Part I: The Origins of Political Consciousness

Topics:  
The Principle of Subjectivity & the Homeless Spirit  
Political Consciousness: The Transition from Tribal to Individuated Politics  
Two Species of Political Being  
Fragility of Civilization  
Intimations of Democracy

Readings:  
Aeschylus, Oresteia  

Part II: The Metaphysical Foundations of Politics

Topics:  
Politics, Knowing and Being: Epistemology & Ontology  
Democritus – Materialism – Marx  
Plato – Idealism – Kant  
Aristotle – Potentiality & Happiness  
Nietzsche – Chaos and Postmodernism

Readings:  
**Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics Book I (http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachian.html)  
*Nietzsche, The Gay Science, Book III, §125

**********FIRST EXAMINATION – TENTATIVE DATE: FEBRUARY 27**********

Part III: The Normative and Empirical Dimensions of Politics

Topics:  
Politics as the Master Science  
Politics as Search for Justice  
Politics & Ethics  
Political Economics  
Mixed Constitutions  
Normative & Scientific Study of Politics

Readings:  
**Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics Book II, III, & V (http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html)  
**Aristotle, Politics, Book III (http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html)
Part IV: Disorder & Deliverance: The Nomos & the Foundations of Political Order

Topics: Power & Authority
Nature vs. Nurture
Political Culture, Socialization, & Ideology
The American Political Culture
Protecting the Nomos
Judgment, Wilderness, & Hope

Readings: Euripides, Hecuba
**"The Behavior of Genes," by Gene Robinson,
New York Times, December 13, 2004
**Exodus (Chapters 1-6) Click JPS for English Text
(http://www.hareidi.org/bible/Exodus.htm)

Part V: Absolutism vs. The Rule of Law

Topics: Power: Its Use and Abuse
Ancient Israel and the Covenant
The Constitutional Republic
The Laws of the State & the Laws of the Gods

Readings: Hobbes, The Leviathan (Chapters XIII, XIV, XV)
(http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html)
**Hammurabi’s Code
(http://www.humanistictexts.org/hammurabi.htm#_Toc483361256)
**Deuteronomy (Chapters 5 – 8) -- Click JPS for English Text
(http://www.hareidi.org/bible/Deuteronomy.htm)
Sophocles, Antigone
**Henry David Thoreau, Essay on Civil Disobedience
(http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/WALDEN/Essays/civil.html)
**Martin Luther King, Jr.
(http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)

**********SECOND EXAMINATION – TENTATIVE DATE: APRIL 4**********

Part VI: Democratic Republics

Topics: Characteristics of Democratic Regimes
Majority Rule and Minority Rights
Conflict Resolution in a Democracy
The Discourse of Democratic Politics

Readings: Euripides, Hecuba (Revisited)
**"Defining Democracy”
(http://usinfo.org/mirror/usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/whatsdem/whatdm2.htm)
**“Politics and the English Language,” by George Orwell
(http://www.resort.com/~prime8/Orwell/patee.html)
**“Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital,” by Robert D. Putnam
Part VII: Freedom, Identity, and the Needs of Strangers

Topics: Identity and Politics
        Freedom and Ambiguity
        The Needs of Strangers
        Pathos and Community

Readings: Sophocles, Oedipus Rex
          **J. S. Mill, On Liberty (Chapters I, II, & III)
          (http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/m/mill/john_stuart/m645o/)
          **Sojourner Truth, Ain't I a Woman
          (http://www.kyphilom.com/www/truth.html)
          *Adrienne Rich, What Does A Woman Need to Know?
          Sophocles, Oedipus at Colonus

Part VIII: The Philosopher, The Citizen, & the City

Topics: Pericles' Model of Citizenship
        Socratic Model of Citizenship
        Civic Virtue, Judgment, Skepticism & Ambiguity

Readings: ***“Pericles’ Funeral Oration,” Thucydides, The History of the Peloponnesian War
          (http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pericles.htm)
          **Plato, Apology
          (http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html)

***FINAL EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, MAY 11, FROM 10:00 TO NOON, DODSON AUDITORIUM***

Course Objectives: As the title of the course indicates, we are going to examine the fundamental issues of politics and examine their significance. We will begin with two very different views of citizenship and move quickly to the origins of political consciousness. Thereafter, we will inquire into questions of power, authority, order and disorder, political cultures and ideologies, justice, liberation, identity, and the needs of the community. Moreover, we shall examine these and other concepts by learning how to construct normative arguments about politics and how to engage in the empirical study of politics. By its very nature, then, this course is an exploration of ideas; essentially it emphasizes a critical understanding of theoretical perspectives on politics.

Additional Educational Objectives: This course is a general education elective; and, as such, it is designed to contribute to your understanding of self and of culture. In this light, the course is intended to acquaint you with some of the classic narratives and philosophies of western civilization, so as to give you an understanding of other cultures and other times; to acquaint you with the some of the moral and ethical issues of politics; and to encourage critical and analytical thinking, as well as a precise and graceful use of language. Toward the latter end you should purchase and use a good dictionary. If you cannot afford to purchase one, you can access the Merriam Webster Dictionary internet site at no cost. See: http://www.m-w.com/. As a social science general education elective this course is designed to prepare you to meet the following competency requirements: LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.
READINGS: The reading materials required for the course consist of three books and a series of readings that are available on the Internet or Moodle. The books may be purchased at any of the area bookstores or on-line. They are: Aeschylus I, Oresteia; Euripides, Hecuba; and Sophocles, Sophocles: The Oedipus Cycle. The Internet readings are identified with their Web Site addresses, given in the syllabus and on Moodle. They are indicated by a double asterisk. If at any time these addresses do not work as hot links, please let me know. You are also required to read essays from a variety of newspapers and magazines. I will assign these throughout the semester. Some are listed on the syllabus, designated with one asterisk; others may be added throughout the semester. All will be posted on Moodle. Finally, you should get in the habit of reading a good newspaper on a regular basis. Many are available on the internet at no cost: the Christian Science Monitor (http://www.csmonitor.com/); and the International Herald Tribune (http://www.iht.com/). A hard copy of the New York Times is also available, free, at various campus locations.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS: There will be three major examinations in this course. The first two of these examinations will be given during the semester, as designated on the syllabus, and will count 35 points each. Tentative dates have been given for these exams. The final examination, which is scheduled for Friday, May 11, from 10:00 to Noon, will count 70 points and will be cumulative in nature, although it will emphasize the last section of the course quite heavily. Rescheduling the Final Examination for a different time is possible only under certain special circumstance and must be approved by the Deans of your respective Colleges. (See Special Instructions for Final Exams on the following LSU Web Site – click on Spring 2012 and scroll down to second page: (http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/registrar.nsf/$Content/Spring+2012?OpenDocument ).

All regular examinations are objective in nature and will cover both lecture and reading materials. Absences from examinations are excused only for valid medical reasons or for legitimate extracurricular activities. Make-up examinations are essay and will be given only for excused absences. In addition, you will be asked to prepare a short conflict resolution assignment. This written assignment will count for 20 points. Instructions will be posted on Moodle. This assignment will be due March 19.

During the course of the semester eight reading quizzes will be given. They will be administered on Moodle and will be open for at least one week. Reading quizzes are intended to facilitate your ability to read and understand difficult texts. Each of these reading quizzes will be worth 5 points. Finally, at least eight one point bonus quizzes will be given during the course of the semester. You must be in class to take a bonus quiz; no makeups are given for them. The maximum you can earn with bonus quizzes is 5 points. No make-ups will be given for bonus quizzes.

Course Examinations and Graded Assignments Summary

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination #1</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination #2</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conflict Resolution Essay</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
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GRADES: All examinations will be curved, but in no instance will an examination curve or the course curve be higher than the following distribution:
A = 180-200
B = 160-179
C = 140-159
D = 120-139
F = 119 & Below
ADDITIONAL NOTES: LSU Policy on class attendance is clear: "Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lectures notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed." Indeed, it is virtually impossible to do well in this course, or any course, without attending class on a regular basis. I do not permit any note-taking service to publish my lectures; nor do I post lecture notes on the internet. However, I do post lecture outlines. Laptop computers and tablet computers are not allowed in class. Recording devices are allowed, so long as it is understood that the recordings and notes are for your own personal use and not for public dispensation or sale. Indeed, the latter is a violation of copyright protection of intellectual property.

Finally, classroom etiquette requires that students be attentive and respectful to one another (that means listening when others are making comments or asking questions). If you must arrive late, please do so unobtrusively. Turn your cell phones off when attending class. Leaving class early, except for emergencies, is unacceptable. Similarly, talking during lectures and discussions, reading newspapers, taking catnaps, reading email and/or browsing the web are not acceptable classroom behavior. Excessive absenteeism and/or discourteous behavior will result in dismissal from class.

MOODLE: You may access Moodle through your Paws Account. Indeed, you should check to see if you are properly registered in the course by accessing your Paws Account. In addition, Moodle will contain the course syllabus, with reading hot links, copies of assigned readings, lecture outlines, examination reviews, and, of course, your examination and assignment grades. It will also be used to administer the reading quizzes.

OFFICE HOURS: My office hours this semester are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 to 10:30 AM and Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3. If you find these hours inconvenient, please let me know and I will arrange another time for us to meet. Please do not hesitate to come to my office to discuss the course, your progress in it, or, for that matter, anything you like! My office is located in Stubbs Hall, Room 237. I encourage you to communicate by e-mail as well, particularly with questions about course material. My e-mail address is poeubk@lsu.edu. Office Phone: 578-1944.