

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                      2052                      Honors: American Government  
Course designation                      Course number                      Course title

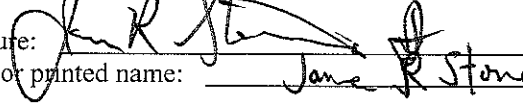
Semester credits: 3                      Contact hours per week: Lecture: 3                      Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_

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@lsu.edu.

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

Signature:                       Date: April 25, 2012  
Typed or printed name: Jane R Stoner

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office of Academic Affairs:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Proposal to Renew the Listing of Political Science 2052 In General Education at Louisiana State University**

1. Attached is a syllabus for Political Science 2052 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 2052 is a broad, single section, general introduction to Honors American Government with typical enrollments from 10 to 35 students. It is designed to be a comprehensive course that introduces students to the study of American politics. More specifically, it is designed to introduce students to the foundations of our American system including the constitution, federalism, and questions concerning the democratic nature of our government. It examines political participation and the role that parties, elections, interest groups, and the media play in the political process. In these sections of the course particular attention is paid to the general education goal of understanding political dynamics. An examination of American political institutions (the congress, presidency, judiciary, and bureaucracy) reveals how the game of politics is really played. In this section students are exposed to the patterns by which societies organize themselves and how people are connected to the world around them in terms of economics and culture.

This course can be used to satisfy a General Education requirement. According to the *LSU General Catalog*, General Education courses are not hurdles to be overcome; rather, they are means by which students learn to think, describe, interpret, and analyze the world. The primary aim is to educate, rather than train, and instill a desire for lifelong learning. POLI 2052 is designed to address the following General Education goals: *LSU graduates will demonstrate 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 a paper are designed to provide students with opportunities for developing an “understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.” The general education competency will be assessed in this course during the fall semesters. During those semesters, the instructor for the course (there is only one section offered per year) will select questions for inclusion on the final exam appropriate for assessing the general education competency.

Approximately 10 to 15 multiple choice questions will be used. Examples of these questions that assess the general education competency are:

1. Why are there only two parties in the United States while other countries have multi-party systems? Discuss your answer in some critical detail.
2. In Federalist #51, James Madison indicates that the structure of government in the new Constitution protects against tyranny. List and critically analyze at least two major provisions that provide these protections and explain how they protect against tyranny.
3. List and critically analyze four different ways citizens participate in the political process. In your answer discuss the extent to which democracies are dependent upon citizen participation and address the level of participation in the United States.

Assessment scores will be tabulated according to percentage of students who fall into the categories below, for each section and across all sections, as follows:

- Answer demonstrates a thorough, precise and critical understanding of the questions asked = 90% & Above = Exceeds Expectations
- Answer demonstrates a thorough understanding of the questions asked but without significant critical = 80-89% = Meets Expectations
- Answer demonstrates a reasonably accurate and general sense of the questions asked = 70-79% = Meets Expectations
- Answer demonstrates little understanding of the questions asked = 60-69% = Did Not Meet Expectations
- Answer demonstrates little understanding and little effort to answer the questions. 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.

**Political Science 2052  
Honors American Government  
Fall XXXX**

Dr. Robert Hogan  
POLI 2052, Section 1  
TTH 10:40-12:00  
103 Coates Hall

Office Hours:  
TTH 1:30 – 2:30 or by prior arrangement  
238 Stubbs Hall  
Telephone: 578-3217

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of American government and politics. In the course we examine the principles, structures, processes, and functions of government with an emphasis on the national government. The first part of the course examines the ideological, historical, socioeconomic, and constitutional contexts of politics in the United States. The second part explores components of the political process including interest groups, political parties, and elections. The third part focuses on the institutions of government (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) that create and implement public policies. The preponderance of our time will be spent on national-level politics, but aspects of state and local governments will be incorporated throughout the semester.

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**Required Texts**

Two books are available for purchase in the bookstore:

- George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, and Robert Lineberry. 2009. *Government in America: Brief Version*, 10th Edition, New York: Pearson, Longman.
- Samuel Kernell. 2007. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.

On the syllabus there are several additional “Readings” listed. These can be found on the class’s Moodle web site.

**Student Evaluations and Policies**

Grading

The final grade for this course will be determined by a student’s performance in the following areas:

Participation: discussions, quizzes, class activities, short assignments, etc.	15%
Writing Assignments (2 @ 12.5% each)	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>
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Letter grades will be determined as follows: A = 90 – 100 percent, B = 80 – 89 percent, C = 70 – 79 percent, D = 60 – 69 percent, and F = below 60 percent.

Participation: Discussions, Quizzes, Class Activities, Short Assignments

Participation counts as a large portion of your overall course grade. Much of this is determined by your involvement in class discussions. However a sizeable amount is also determined by performance on unannounced quizzes given at the beginning of class covering the readings assigned for that day. In-class assignments and class activities also count as part of the participation grade. In addition, I will occasionally ask you to complete a short assignment that is due at the beginning of the next class meeting. These assignments typically involve writing a short essay on a given topic. All of this work becomes part of your overall participation grade. Any class assignment given that is due during the next class meeting will be posted on Moodle soon after it is provided in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check Moodle for any missed assignment prior to the next class meeting. Also, assignments not handed in on time will receive a grade penalty.

Given that this is a small class that uses a discussion format, is important to keep up with the readings and to be prepared every day. *Students are strongly encouraged to take part in class discussions.* It is therefore necessary to complete the readings prior to class and to spend time thinking about them in a critical manner. Also, please keep up with current developments in national, state, and local politics given that these will often be used as examples in our discussions.

### Writing Assignments

There are two writing assignments listed on the syllabus and each counts for 12.5 percent of the course grade. These assignments will require you to write a brief paper (approximately 5 pages) based on readings listed on the course syllabus. These assignments are provided one week in advance of their due date so it is to your advantage to keep up with the readings so you have time to write these papers. These writing assignments will be handed in on Friday, September 10 and Friday October 29. A hard copy of the paper should be placed in my box in the Department of Political Science Office in Room 240 Stubbs Hall by 4:00 p.m. on these days (the department office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.). Late papers will receive a grade penalty.

### Exams

There are two exams – a mid-term and final (dates are listed on the syllabus). These tests will consist of short-answer/essay style questions. Note that makeup exams are only administered when a student can produce a valid written excuse. If you anticipate a problem, please let me know as soon as possible.

### General Policies

*Classroom Decorum:* Please be considerate of those around you who are trying to listen and take notes. Keep in mind that class will begin promptly at 10:40. *Please be on time and seated prior to the beginning of class and leave early only for emergencies.* Most importantly, **do not talk to others during class.** Disruptive students will be asked to leave immediately.

*Plagiarism:* Use of another's words, ideas, or data without giving proper credit will not be tolerated. Care should be made to properly cite sources where appropriate. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult me. I reserve the right to investigate when I suspect that you are not doing your own work. All violations of this policy are turned over to the Dean of Students for adjudication.

*Policies on Late and Missed Assignments:* If you are encountering a difficulty in completing an assignment on time or taking an exam on the required day, contact me as soon as possible. **Do not wait until the end of the semester to ask to make up work, such requests are almost never granted.**

*Special Needs:* For students who have special needs or require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation in advance so arrangements can be made.

### **Course Schedule**

August 24	Introduction to the Course
August 26	Approaches to Studying American "Democracy" <i>Government in America</i> , Chapter 1 <u>Reading#1:</u> "Plagiarism Lines Blur for Students in Digital Age" <u>Reading#2:</u> "Democracy" <u>Reading#3:</u> "Top Secret in America"
August 31	Origins of American Government <i>Government in America</i> , Chapter 2 <i>Government in America</i> , Appendix: Declaration of Independence and Constitution
September 2	Debate over the Constitution <i>Government in America</i> , Appendix: The Federalist #10 and #51
September 7	Ratification of the Constitution <u>Reading#4:</u> "The Constitution" <u>Reading#5:</u> "It is Time to Repair the Constitution's Flaws"
September 9	Federalism <i>Government in America</i> , Chapter 3 <u>Reading#6:</u> "Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations" <u>Reading#7:</u> "There Will Always Be a New Federalism"

**\*\*\* Paper Assignment #1 due on Friday, September 10 by 4:00 p.m. \*\*\***

- September 14      Public Opinion  
*Government in America*, Chapter 6  
Reading #8: “Trust in Government Remains Low”
- September 16      The Mass Media  
*Government in America*, Chapter 7  
Reading#9: “Why We Must Shift Our Attention from ‘Save Newspapers’ to ‘Save Society’ ”
- September 21      Interest Groups  
*Government in America*, Chapter 10
- September 23      Interest Group Influence and Effectiveness  
Reading#10: “Tobacco Lobby Political Influence”  
Reading#11: “K Street and the Status Quo”
- September 28      Political Parties  
*Government in America*, Chapter 8
- September 30      Presidential Nomination Contests  
*Government in America*, Chapter 9, part (pp. 301-312)
- October 5            General Elections for President  
*Government in America*, Chapter 9, part (pp. 312-345)  
Reading#12: “Obama’s America”
- October 7            Voting Behavior: Turnout and Candidate Choice  
Reading#13: “Should America Adopt Public Financing of Political Campaigns”
- October 12          **Mid-Term Exam**
- October 14          Representation in Legislatures  
*Government in America*, Chapter 11, part (pp. 380-392)  
Reading#14: “Representation”
- October 19          Legislative Process  
*Government in America*, Chapter 11, part (pp. 393-421)  
Reading#15: “The Empty Chamber”
- October 21          **Fall Holiday**
- October 26          Legislatures in the States  
Reading#16: “Legislative Politics in the States”
- October 28          The Presidency  
*Government in America*, Chapter 12
- \*\*\* Paper Assignment #2 due on Friday, October 29 by 4:00 p.m. \*\*\*
- November 2          The Presidency  
*Going Public* (entire book)
- November 4          Bureaucracies  
*Government in America*, Chapter 13  
Extra Reading#17: “Bureaucracy”
- November 9          The Judiciary  
*Government in America*, Chapter 14
- November 11        The Supreme Court  
Reading#18: “Is Judicial Review Obsolete?”  
Reading#19: “Our Fill-in-the-Blank Constitution”

- November 16 Civil Liberties Policymaking  
*Government in America*, Chapters 4
- November 18 Civil Rights Policymaking  
*Government in America*, Chapters 5
- November 23 Budgets, Taxes, and Social Welfare Policymaking  
*Government in America*, Chapter 15 and 16
- November 25 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- November 30 National Security Policymaking  
*Government in America*, Chapter 17  
Reading#20: "How Globalization Went Bad"
- December 2 Summation and Review
- December 10 **Final Exam in this classroom Friday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 pm**