General Education Review Committee
Agenda

October 17, 2008
ADM 204
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order
Roll

( ) Erik Hirschman   Mat-Su/UAB   Social Sciences
( ) Mari Ippolito    CAS/UAB
( ) Patricia Fagan    CAS   Humanities
( ) Robert Capuozzo  COE
( ) Jack Pauli        CBPP
( ) Jeane Breinig    CAS   Written Communication
( ) Len Smiley       CAS   Quantitative Skills
( ) Suzanne Forster  CAS/UAB
( ) Robin Wahto      CTC/UAB
( ) Walter Olivares  CAS   Fine Arts
( ) Tom Miller       OAA
( ) Catherine Sullivan CHSW/UAB
( ) Doug Parry       CAS   Oral Communication
( ) Jeff Miller      SOE
( ) Karl Wing        USUAA
( ) Hilary Davies    UAB President

II. Approval of Agenda (pg. 1)

III. Approval of Summary (pg. 2-3)

IV. Report from Vice Provost Tom Miller

V. Chair’s Report

VI. Course Action Requests
Chg   PS A101   Introduction to American Government (3 cr) (3+0) (pg. 4-7)
Chg   PS A102   Introduction to Political Science (3 cr) (3+0) (pg. 8-11)
Chg   PS A311   Comparative Politics (3 cr) (3+0) (pg. 12-15)

VII. Old Business
A. Status of GER Capstone Assessment

VIII. New Business
A. Nomination for GERC representative to the Assessment and Curriculum Alignment task force
   Email from Hilary Davies (pg. 16)

IX. Informational Items and Adjournment
General Education Review Committee
Summary

October 10, 2008
ROOM CHANGE: LIB 306
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order
Roll
(x) Erik Hirschman Mat-Su/UAB Social Sciences
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(x) Catherine Sullivan CHSW/UAB
( ) Doug Parry CAS Oral Communication
(x) Jeff Miller SOE
( ) Karl Wing USUAA
(x) Hilary Davies UAB President

II. Approval of Agenda (pg. 1)
Approved

III. Approval of Summary (pg. 2)
Approved

IV. Report from Vice Provost Tom Miller
Unable to attend

V. Chair’s Report

VI. Course Action Requests
NONE

VII. Old Business
A. Statistical issues related to assessment of the capstone courses - Chad Farrell
Comments/suggestions:
With small population random sampling may not work
Possibly wait and assess two semesters together
Issue of standardized assessment tool
Need to establish unit of measure
Using trained coders to evaluate materials
Look at GPAs and compare (concurrent validity)
Have already decided that no names will be on the materials
Would be helpful if it was graded
Materials would need to be random
Possibly have two copies (one graded and one clean)
Grades given in class may not correspond with capstone outcomes

Last remarks:
Independent committee with expertise in each area
Sample of student- be clear that this is for the overall capstone program
Cannot use this information to judge specific sections
Ask faculty to submit exemplars

B. Review of Proposed Generic Capstone Assessment tool (pg. 3)
C. Guidelines on Capstone Learning Outcomes Assessment (pg. 4-10)

VIII. New Business

IX. Informational Items and Adjournment
Proposal to Initiate, Add, Change, or Delete a Course or Program of Study

1a. School or College
   AS CAS
1b. Division
   ASSC Division of Social Science
1c. Department
   Political Science

2. Course Prefix
   PS
3. Course Number
   A101
4. Previous Course Prefix & Number
   N/A
5a. Credits/CEU
   3.0
5b. Contact Hours
   (Lecture + Lab)
   (3+0)

6. Complete Course/Program Title
   Introduction to American Government
Abbreviated Title for Transcript (30 character)
   Intro to American Government

7. Type of Course
   ☑ Academic  ☐ Non-credit  ☐ CEU  ☐ Professional Development

8. Type of Action
   ☑ Add  ☐ Change  ☐ Delete
   (mark appropriate boxes)

9. Repeat Status No
   # of Repeats
   Max Credits

10. Grading Basis
    ☑ A-F  ☐ P/NP  ☐ NG

11. Implementation Date
    semester/year
    From: 8/2009                To: 12/9999

12. ☐ Cross Listed with
    ☐ Stacked with
    Cross-Listed Coordination Signature

13. List any programs or college requirements that require this course
    BA in Political Science

14. Coordinate with Affected Units:
    Faculty List Serve
    Department, School, or College
    ________________________________
    Initiator Signature               Date

15. ☑ General Education Requirement
    ☐ Oral Communication  ☐ Written Communication  ☐ Quantitative Skills  ☐ Humanities
    ☐ Fine Arts  ☑ Social Sciences  ☐ Natural Sciences  ☐ Integrative Capstone

16. Course Description
    An introduction to the historical and constitutional foundations of American Government; the political activities of parties, groups, and the media; public decision-making by the executive, Congress, and the courts; and current economic, environmental, social, and foreign issues and policies.

17a. Course Prerequisite(s) (list prefix and number)
    N/A
17b. Test Score(s)
    N/A
17c. Co-requisite(s) (concurrent enrollment required)
    N/A
17d. Other Restriction(s)
    ☐ College  ☐ Major  ☐ Class  ☐ Level
17e. Registration Restriction(s) (non-codable)
    N/A

18. ☐ Mark if course has fees

19. Justification for Action
    Updating the course content guide including goals and outcomes to keep the course description current.
Course Content Guide

Date:            March 27, 2008
College:        College of Arts and Sciences
Course Number:  PS A101
Number of Credits:  3
Contact Hours:  3 + 0
Course Program Title: Introduction to American Government
Grading Basis:  A - F

Course Description:
An introduction to the historical and constitutional foundations of American government; the political activities of parties, groups, and the media; public decision-making by the executive, Congress, and the courts; and current economic, environmental, social, and foreign issues and policies.

Course Prerequisites/Test Scores/Corequisite(s)/ Other Restriction(s)/Registration Restriction(s)
Prerequisites: NONE

1. Instructional Goals and Student Outcomes:

   a. Instructional Goals

      1. Establish basic understanding of the discipline of American government and U.S. political systems.
      2. Develop understanding of the ideals and institutions of American politics and institutions.
      3. Develop analytical skills.
      4. Develop communication skills, both written and oral.
      5. Develop research skills.

   b. Student Outcomes

      1. Demonstrate basic writing skills through papers or writing projects.
      2. Describe key concepts in the field of American Government.
3. Relate basic empirical analytical skills, such as evaluating voting data.
4. Investigate the complexity of human institutions and behavior to better understand political, economic, and/or cultural dynamics.

2. Guidelines for Evaluation:

Student evaluation is based on regular course attendance and participation in class discussion, miscellaneous writing assignments, and an assessment of the student’s understanding of basic principles of American Government through performance on a midterm and a final examination. Letter grades correspond to current University catalog.

3. Course Level Justification:

This class is an introduction to the field of Political Science and is a foundation for higher level courses within the study.

4. Topical Course Outline:

1. Introduce students to the main theorists and theories of American Government.

2. Discuss U.S. government structures and institutions and how these institutions work with or against the principles upon which they were founded.

3. Analyze the role of government in economics, with attention given but not limited to the theories of Adam Smith and Karl Marx.

4. Examine domestic policy in the United States, including but not limited to security issues, health care, education and environmental policies.

5. Review American foreign policy both from a historical and current perspective.

5. Suggested Texts:


6. Bibliography


### Course Details

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<td>5b. Contact Hours</td>
<td>((Lecture + Lab)) ((3+0))</td>
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6. **Complete Course/Program Title**
   - Introduction to Political Science
   - Intro to Political Science

   **Abbreviated Title for Transcript (30 character)**

7. **Type of Course**
   - [ ] Academic
   - [ ] Non-credit
   - [ ] CEU
   - [ ] Professional Development

8. **Type of Action**
   - [ ] Add
   - [x] Change
   - [ ] Delete

   **(mark appropriate boxes)**

9. **Repeat Status**
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] # of Repeats
   - [ ] Max Credits

10. **Grading Basis**
    - [x] A-F
    - [ ] P/NP
    - [ ] NG

11. **Implementation Date**
    - From: 8/2009
    - To: 12/9999

12. **Cross Listed with**
    - [ ] Stacked
    - [ ] with
    - [ ] Cross-Listed Coordination Signature

13. **List any programs or college requirements that require this course**
    - BA in Political Science

14. **Coordinate with Affected Units**
    - Faculty List Serve, Deans/Directors
    - Department, School, or College

15. **General Education Requirement**
    - [x] Oral Communication
    - [ ] Written Communication
    - [ ] Quantitative Skills
    - [ ] Humanities
    - [ ] Fine Arts
    - [ ] Social Sciences
    - [ ] Natural Sciences
    - [ ] Integrative Capstone

16. **Course Description**
    - The exploration of basic principles and processes of major branches of the discipline of political science including American government, comparative politics, international relations and political philosophy.

17a. **Course Prerequisite(s)** (list prefix and number)
    - N/A

17b. **Test Score(s)**
    - N/A

17c. **Co-requisite(s)** (concurrent enrollment required)
    - N/A

17d. **Other Restriction(s)**
    - College
    - Major
    - Class
    - Level

17e. **Registration Restriction(s)** (non-codable)
    - N/A

18. **Mark if course has fees**

19. **Justification for Action**
    - Updating the course description and course content guide including goals and outcomes to keep the course current.
Course Content Guide

Date: March 27, 2008

College: College of Arts and Sciences

Course Number: PS A102

Number of Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 3 + 0

Course Program Title: Introduction to Political Science

Grading Basis: A - F

Course Description:

The exploration of basic principles and processes of major branches of the discipline of political science including American government, comparative politics, international relations and political philosophy.

Course Prerequisites/Test Scores/Corequisite(s)/Other Restriction(s)/Registration Restriction(s)

Prerequisites: NONE

1. Instructional Goals and Student Outcomes:

a. Instructional Goals

1. Establish basic understanding of the discipline of Political Science and its sub-disciplines.
2. Develop understanding of the ideals and institutions of politics and political systems.
3. Develop analytical skills.
4. Develop communication skills, both written and oral.
5. Develop research skills.

b. Student Outcomes

1. Demonstrate basic research and writing skills through papers or other writing projects.
2. Describe key concepts in the field of Political Science
3. Develop basic analytical skills to such as evaluating electoral data.
4. Relate the complexity of human institutions and behavior to better understand group, political, economic, and/or cultural dynamics.
5. Adopt a critical perspective to better understand the forces of globalization and diversity.

2. **Guidelines for Evaluation:**

   Student evaluation is based on regular course attendance and participation in class discussion; a written research paper, and an assessment of the student’s understanding of basic principles of Political Science through performance on a midterm and a final examination. Letter grades correspond to current University catalog.

3. **Course Level Justification:**

   This class is an introduction to the field of Political Science and is a foundation for higher level courses within the study.

4. **Topical Course Outline:**

   1. Introduce the main theorists and theories of Political Science, including but not limited to John Locke and Karl Marx.
   
   2. Discuss alternative government structures and institutions and how these institutions work with or against the principles upon which they were founded.
   
   3. Analyze the role of government in economics and economic systems.
   
   4. Examine the relations between nation-states and review concepts of international relations and political violence.
   
   5. Review modern day challenges to political systems.

5. **Suggested Texts:**


6. **Bibliography**


## Curriculum Action Request

**University of Alaska Anchorage**

Proposal to Initiate, Add, Change, or Delete a Course or Program of Study

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**Curriculum Action Request**

**University of Alaska Anchorage**

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Course Content Guide

Date: March 27, 2008

College: College of Arts and Sciences

Course Number: PS A311

Number of Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 3 + 0

Course Program Title: Comparative Politics

Grading Basis: A - F

Course Description:

Introduction to the development of governmental structures, and political processes in the modern world. Theories are related to problems and governing strategies in contemporary political systems

Course Prerequisites/Test Scores/Corequisite(s)/ Other Restriction(s)/Registration Restriction(s)

Prerequisites: ENGL A111

1. Instructional Goals and Student Outcomes:

   a. Instructional Goals

   1. Establish understanding of the sub-discipline of Comparative Politics.
   2. Develop understanding of the differences in ideals and institutions of politics and political systems around the world.
   3. Develop analytical skills.
   4. Develop communication skills, both written and oral.
   5. Develop research skills.

   b. Student Outcomes

   1. Demonstrate advanced research and writing skills through research paper or small writing assignments.
   2. Gain an understanding of key concepts in the sub-field of Comparative Politics.
3. Demonstrate advanced analytical skills by studying comparative electoral data.
4. Analyze the complexity of governmental structures to better understand group, political, economic and/or cultural dynamics.
5. Gain an understanding of the complexity of globalization and diversity.

2. **Guidelines for Evaluation:**

Student evaluation is based on regular course attendance and participation in class discussion; a written research paper, and an assessment of the student’s understanding of principles of comparative politics through performance on a midterm and a final examination. Letter grades correspond to current University catalog.

3. **Course Level Justification:**

Junior-level, upper-division course that builds upon previous course work and requires familiarity with the concepts, methods, and vocabulary of Political Science.

4. **Topical Course Outline:**

1. Introduce the main theorists, such as Karl Marx, Gabriel Almond, and Sidney Verba, and theories of Comparative Politics, including but not limited to structural functionalism and systems theory.

2. Compare alternative government structures and institutions and reviews how these institutions work with or against the principles upon which they were founded.

3. Compare economic systems and foreign policies around the world, including but not limited to industrialized democracies, communist regimes and developing societies.

4. Selected case studies will be examined.

5. **Suggested Texts:**

6. Bibliography


Date: October 9, 2008
To: UAB members

From: Hilary Davies, Chair of UAB

The Chairs of UAB and GAB are asking for volunteers to staff a short-term task force that will work on aligning assessment and curriculum at UAA.

As you know, as part of the accreditation process, UAA needs to establish, assess and report institutional learning outcomes (ILOs). UAB has already reviewed a proposed set of such outcomes and will be asked to comment on later drafts.

So far, the Accreditation Steering Committee has done the initial work on the ILOs. The Accreditation Steering Committee has requested that the Academic Boards consider taking ownership of the next steps in the ILO process. Together, the chairs of GAB and UAB suggested a short-term task force that will accomplish the following:

- Review the proposed ILOs and recommend changes for consideration by the full boards – by November 15. UAB and GAB have been asked to comment and formally endorse the interim list of ILOs.

- Review the program assessment process, as currently exists in the Office of Academic Affairs. Propose a mechanism for aligning program assessment and ILO assessment. Also consider and propose a way to integrate the assessment work done by OAA with the curricular work currently done by the Boards. Ideally, this will lead to a governance structure where both curriculum and assessment will be initiated by faculty governance, with support from the Governance Office and OAA – by December 15.

- Propose a way to handle the actual assessment work, using a combination of faculty and OAA staff resources. – by January 30.

In essence, the last two bullets imply that both the assessment policy making and the actual assessment work could become part of the Faculty Senate committee structure, either through the existing Boards, or via new joint committees.

The Accreditation Team and the Chairs of UAB/GAB suggested representation from each of the following groups on the task force (projected to run until January 2009):

- UAB, GAB, GERC, Graduate Council, one of the existing Assessment Committees, Community Campuses, Dean/Associate Dean, OAA (ex officio).