

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

GE-007-145

PLS 420 - American Political Institutions and Behavior

(GE Synthesis D4)

General Education Committee

Date: 05/22/15

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 6/10/15

Academic Senate

Date: 7/22/15
FIRST READING

BACKGROUND:

This is a new course proposed for GE Synthesis C4. The course will allow students transferring into CPP under SB 1440 – mandated programs that do not include courses articulated with PLS 201 to fulfill EO 1065 requirements.

The committee first raised two background questions with Dr. Pinter-Lucke – her responses follow the questions:

- 1) Are the students who potentially need to satisfy the American Institutions (AI) requirement part of some special 2+2 program with the community colleges and, if they are, why have EO 1065 requirements not been satisfied at the lower division level by the community colleges?

Dr. Pinter-Lucke’s response: The students that are most likely to need this course are students in the special 2+2 program, called variously “SB 1440”, “STAR”, “A Degree with a Guarantee”, “AST and AAT Degrees”. However, there are likely transfer students every year from outside our system who have taken courses to satisfy Area D but not the AI requirement. In the case of the STAR students, they receive an associate’s degree from a community college that guarantees that they can then transfer here to complete the remaining requirements for a bachelor’s degree in 90 units, including the UD GE courses.

The community colleges in California do not have a parallel AI requirement and offer multiple ways to complete Area D. Due to the construction of the AA and AS degrees, our departments have found it very difficult to construct 90 unit completion programs and have been forced to make sacrifices not required for native students. To ask the departments to add a lower division AI requirement would require additional sacrifices or lack of participation in the program. Both are undesirable consequences.

- 2) How many students are likely to need this course to satisfy the American Ideals requirement?

Dr. Pinter-Lucke’s response: I can’t tell you how many students need this course now. I can say that the need will increase as the number of students in the STAR program increase.

RESOURCES RECOMMENDED:

Dr. Daniel Lewis, Dr. Mario Guerrero, Dr. Claudia Pinter-Lucke

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Dr. Daniel Lewis,
- Dr. Mario Guerrero,
- Dr. Claudia Pinter-Lucke

DISCUSSION

In reviewing the proposal for PLS 420, the GE Committee had three questions for the proposal's author that were answered by Dr. Guerrero:

- 1) **Section III. Expected Outcomes.** The committee was satisfied that the course as originally submitted did a good job of fulfilling its American Institutions mission. However, the D4 synthesis aspect of the course that should include other GE Area D areas was less obvious. The author has clarified by adding a substantial Section B to the Expected Outcomes in which this question is addressed explicitly, and by adjusting the Catalog Description, Learning Outcomes, and Course Outline accordingly.
- 2) **Section IV. Instructional Materials:** It was unclear which readings counted as "original primary sources" and whether the list should be augmented with more texts that might be thus considered. Additionally, it was unclear whether students are to read everything or only part of this list, whether the list includes a textbook or list of potential textbooks that instructors may choose among, or whether some or all of this list are intended as potential references for instructors. The committee recommended that the authors divide the list with headings to provide clarity.
- 3) **Section VII. Course Outline.** The course outline as originally submitted was slim--short on details that would allow evaluators and instructors to know what material should be covered. The course author responded by a significant expansion of the course outline in the revised ECO.

A revised ECO was then submitted to the GE committee by Dr. Guerrero and the committee determined that the concerns were adequately addressed in the revised ECO.

RECOMMENDATION:

The GE Committee recommends that PLS 420 be approved to be offered as a means to meet GE Area D4 requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Revised Expanded Course Outline