Political Science Major Committee
Course Approval Criteria

Course Information
> A representative instructor syllabus and any additional submission materials must provide:
> 1. Course Information - department course coding and title with credit hours
> 2. Course description
> 3. Student learning outcomes
> 4. Textbooks/Learning Resources used - information below
> 5. Detailed topical outline and weekly schedule – **This should go beyond chapter numbers and titles.**
> 6. Methods of evaluation of student learning directly linked to course objectives and outcomes
> 7. Grading criteria and scale
> 8. Description of writing assignments
> 9. ***All materials submitted for panel review must be recent and representative.***

Course Description
- Please provide complete catalog copy for this course.

Prerequisites
- If prerequisites are required; they must be of appropriate level.

Delivery Mode
- Traditional, Online, Hybrid

Textbooks/Learning Resources
- The choice of required text must provide evidence of course content and focus. Texts reflect and support writing, speaking or content outcomes and requirements. As institutions pursue the opportunity to expand into online/open resource electronic text material, the panel has sought to provide some necessary guidance on citing these learning resources in submitted syllabi and documents. If any online reading or resource materials are used, provide accessible evidence which may be a complete working url or bibliographic citation. This site/resource must be active, working, and viewable by the panel. Active hyperlinks are acceptable but cannot be embedded in an online learning system.
- Political philosophy courses must include analysis of primary texts as an important course component. (new, added spring '25, effective fall '25)

Student Outcomes
- Provide additional evidence that the course focus is aligned with the IAI course descriptor.

- Political science deals with the theory and practice of politics and describes and analyzes political systems and political behavior. Upon satisfactory completion of one or more political science courses, students will be able to:
  - explain the relationships between political life and the cultural ideas of American democracy;
  - describe formal government institutions and legal structures and political behavior and processes;
  - describe the political systems of other countries, identify international organizations, and explain the relationships between nations;

- analyze and evaluate political phenomena;
- demonstrate an understanding of and skill in the process of social scientific inquiry;
- make explicit and analyze value judgments about political decisions and policies;
- explain the social-psychological sources and historical-cultural origins of their own political attitudes and values, and analyze critically the personal and social implications of alternative values; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the capacities and skills needed to participate effectively and democratically in society.

Assignments
- Writing assignments:
  - Demonstrates rigor and scope of the course and application of critical thinking skills.

Evaluation
- Method of student evaluation must be linked to course objectives and student outcomes.
- Distribution of grading categories will provide evidence of course rigor.

Topical Outline/Weekly Schedule
- The committee will review the schedule for evidence of the content focus of the course.

Discipline Specific Concerns
- General Coding Practice
  - A course can only be assigned to one code/description. However, multiple courses from the same institution may be assigned the same code/description.

Common Reasons Courses Are Not Approved
- Course does not match description for IAI designation
- Course has inappropriate prerequisites
  - Please see section on prerequisites above.