POL 3240: Political Analysis

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

Examines the application of political science research methodology to current questions of politics and public policy. Prerequisite: Completion of Core Curriculum mathematics requirement (Goal Area 4) or consent of instructor.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/12/2015 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Design and the Logic of Control
2. Federalism
3. Making Controlled Comparisons
4. Measuring and Describing Variables
5. Proposing Explanations, Framing Hypotheses, and Making Comparisons
6. Public Opinion, Political Parties, Elections and Interest Groups
7. Terrorism
8. The Courts
9. The Definition and Measurement of Concepts
10. U.S. Foreign Policy

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. increase familiarity and usage of leading journals in political science
2. develop skills in research design and application
3. improve writing and communication skills
4. consider the relevance of the study of politics for solving contemporary socio-political challenges
5. begin to identify the topic and research design of their senior thesis
6. develop student abilities to lead and participate in thoughtful discussion
7. explore ideas about the competing conceptions of the methods of political research
8. build confidence in discussing with more sophistication controversies of contemporary politics
9. develop a greater appreciation of the diversity and complexity of the issues amenable to political research

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None
F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted