CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Crossed Box:
- Undergraduate Council
- New Course [ ] Course Change

Core Category: Govt  Effective Fall 2009

or

- Graduate/Professional Studies Council
- New Course [ ] Course Change

Effective Fall __________

1. Department: POLS  College: CLASS

2. Faculty Contact Person: James Thurmond  Telephone: 3-7622  Email: jhthurmond@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
   - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
     POLS / 1107 / Federal and Texas Constitutions
   - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.):
     POLS / 1107 / FEDERAL AND TEXAS CONSTITUTION
   - SCH: 1.00  Level: FR  CIP Code: 4510020001  Lect Hrs: 1  Lab Hrs: 0

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? [ ] Yes  [ ] No
   If Yes, please complete:
   - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
     ___ / ___ / ___
   - Course ID: ___  Effective Date (currently active row): ___

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): All
   - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? [ ] Yes  [ ] No
   - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? [ ] Yes  [ ] No
   - Can the course be repeated for credit? [ ] Yes  [ ] No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory)  Instruction Type: lecture ONLY  (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from
   the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
   ___ / ___ / ___
   - Course ID: ___  Effective Date (currently active row): ___

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none").
   Cr: 1. (1-0). Prerequisites: [ ] By permission only. Enrollment limited to students who have completed 6
   hours of Core Government.) Description (30 words max.). Introduction to the history and politics of the
   United States and Texas Constitutions. Emphasis on the functions, structure, characteristics, impacts,
   amendment procedures and political philosophy that underlies written constitutions.

10. Dean's Signature: ____________________________ Date: 10/24/08

Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
CORE CURRICULUM COURSE REQUEST

Originating Department/College: Political Science/CLASS

Person making request: James Thurmond
Telephone: 713-743-7622

E-mail: jhturmond@uh.edu

Dean's signature: ____________________________ Date: 10/24/08

I. General Information:

Course number and title: POLS-1107 Federal and Texas Constitutions

Catalog description: Introduction to the history and politics of the United States and Texas Constitutions. Emphasis on the functions, structure, characteristics, impacts, amendment procedures and political philosophy that underlies written constitutions.

Category of Core for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

[ ] Communication
[ ] Mathematics
[ ] Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
[ ] American History
[ ] Government
[ ] Humanities
[ ] Visual/Performing Arts Critical
[ ] Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
[ ] Natural Sciences
[ ] Social/Behavioral Sciences
[ ] Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):

Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum

A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see Guidelines). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.

B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

SVP. Effective 5/2/08. Replaces all previous forms, which may no longer be used.
Attachment – Core Curriculum Course Request for POLS-1107

A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see Guidelines)? Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.

POLS-1107 is being created to assist our students in fulfilling the State mandated Core Government requirement. This course will be offered in addition to our pre-existing Core Government courses (POLS-1336 & POLS-1337) to be used as a supplement for students who have completed 6 hours of Government courses, but have not satisfied the statutory requirement for study of the federal and state constitutions.

This course familiarizes students with the following points concerning both the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution:

- The Functions Performed by Written Constitutions
- Historical Origins
- The Politics of Constitution Writing/Ratification
- Basic Structure – Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Articles, etc.
- Characteristics – Length, Level of Detail, Predominance of Inherent or Enumerated Powers, etc.
- Amendment Procedures
- Impact on Political Outcomes and Activities

Students will understand the political philosophy that underlies written constitutions, and the ways in which constitutions contribute to and support democratic governance.

B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

We review exam results, professor comments, and end-of-semester evaluations to determine course effectiveness.

C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

We may improve the course by taking one or more actions: 1) modify the course syllabus to include/exclude additional readings; 2) modify the emphasis placed upon particular sub-topics during the semester.
This one hour course provides students with familiarity with the Constitution of the United States and the Texas Constitution. Students will gain an understanding of the following:

- The history of written, legally binding constitutions
- The history of the U.S. Constitution
- The history of the Texas Constitution
- The nature and functions of Constitutions
- The Characteristics of the U.S. Constitution
- Basic Principles and Political Impacts of the U.S. Constitution
- The Characteristics of the Texas Constitution
- Basic Principles and Political Impacts of the Texas Constitution

The readings for this course are:

- Gregory R. Weiher, “The U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution”
- Gregory R. Weiher, “Judicial Federalism”
- Donald Lutz, “The Texas Constitution”, in Perspectives on American and Texas Politics

This course is offered on a pass-fail basis. Passage in the course is accomplished by completing the on-line, multiple-choice examination with a score of 70% or better.