

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913 - 3649**  
**479 788 7000**

**General Syllabus**

**POLS 4803 Seminar in Political Science**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: Senior standing; fifteen hours of POLS coursework, POLS 3803 Social Research Methods and Statistics.

Effective Catalog 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Advanced study of a topic in political science. Includes a major research and writing project analyzing a research question in the field of political science.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify a research question/problem in political science and formulate a theory to explain the question/problem.
2. Establish a clear thesis and show evidence of proof in solving the problem.
3. Conduct research in the field of political science and related subjects, including comparison and analysis of statistical political data, and understanding of the range of thought within the political spectrum.
4. Present their scholarly research findings in the form of a paper and by oral presentation.
5. Utilize appropriate communications skills, both oral and written, so as to better explain the process of not only the research steps, but also the findings unearthed during the research.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyze major issues/features related to the field of political science. They will identify the key aspects of political science as a field of study, and research, evaluate, and compare information from varying sources in order to evaluate authority, accuracy, recency, and bias relevant to the field of political science. Students will generate solutions to/analysis of various issues that may impede the efficient operation of political science as a field of study.

#### **Quantitative Reasoning**

Students will apply appropriate statistical models to understand the topics studied in political science. Students will represent statistical information symbolically, visually, numerically and verbally and will interpret models and data in order to draw the necessary inferences. Students will recognize the limitations of quantitative analysis.

#### **Communication Skills (Written and Oral)**

Students will compose coherent documents. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

#### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will identify ethical dilemmas in the political science field and apply ethical frameworks to resolve a variety of ethical dilemmas in the field of political science.

#### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon the key topics that the field of political science in the United States of America compare and contrast with the field of political science in other countries. They will demonstrate how U.S. politics impacts or is impacted by different political cultures.

### **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. International relations
- B. American national government
- C. Campaigns and elections
- D. Comparative political institutions
- E. State and local governments
- F. Constitutional structure