UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT  
COURSE CHANGE REQUEST for GenEd Distribution  

*** This change is not effective for registration or publication until this request has been reviewed by the Provost.***  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change Effective for Term: Fall 2010</th>
<th>School/College: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject: POL</td>
<td>Course Number: 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department: Political Science (POL)</td>
<td>Check here for NO CHANGE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[ ] INACTIVATE Course  
[ ] INACTIVATE Crosslisting(s)  

INSTRUCTIONS: Only where a change is requested, please complete the Requested Change column below; leave other lines blank. Add separate page(s) if space provided is not sufficient for your response.

### AS CURRENTLY OFFERED

1. Title: American National Government and Politics  
2. Credit Hours: (3)  
3. Repeat Status: (see CURRENT Course Description below)  
4. Crosslisting(s):  
5. GE Distribution: S  

### REQUESTED CHANGE

#### To:

- Total ____ -or- Variable ____ to ____  
- Max of ____ credits -or- ___________  
- FYE First Year Experience  
- Capstone  
- H Humanities  
- S Social Science  
- GB Global Studies  
- F Fine Arts  
- HW Health & Well Being  
- FQ Finance & Quant Lit  
- N Nat Science and/or  
- NL Nat Sci Lab  
- T Technology

6. CURRENT Course Description:  
Theory and practice of democratic government in the United States and the institutions and processes of American government as manifestations of democratic values. Representative democracy, federalism, the Presidency, Congress, the Courts, political parties, interest groups and voting as expressions of, and at times contradictions to, democratic values.

7. NEW Course Description (as it should appear in the Catalog):

UM-FLINT RECEIVED  
OCT 30 2009  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Dean's Office

REQUESTED BY:  
[Signature]
Department Chair  
Date: 10/20/2009

Department Chair of Crosslist(s) or Prerequisite(s) Date
Dean Date
Dean of Crosslist(s) or Prerequisite(s) Date
GECAC Date

REVIEWED BY:  
Catalog Editor Date
Provost Date
Catalog Coordinator (Registrar's Office) Date
REQUEST FOR GENERAL EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION DESIGNATION

Directions: Please indicate which learning outcomes will be addressed in this course (place the corresponding number and outcome where indicated). A minimum of five learning outcomes must be addressed for a course to be eligible for general education distribution designation. Please provide a brief narrative as to how the course objectives/key concepts address each learning outcome selected, and indicate what tools for assessment will be used.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Title: American National Government and Politics</th>
<th>Department: Political Science</th>
<th>Course Prefix: POL</th>
<th>Course Number: 120</th>
</tr>
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| No. 3 | Learning Outcome: **Demonstrate ability to think critically**  
**Narrative:** Students will be offered the opportunity to engage in critical thinking. Critical thinking may include applying robust intellectual standards (point of view, relevance, accuracy, precision, depth, breadth, logic, and/or fairness) to others' thinking, writing, and audio-visual products. Students are given opportunities to explore higher-order critical thinking e.g. using concepts, and logical or causal arguments to organize knowledge and experience. This course involves understanding and applying key concepts derived from American political culture and exploring alternative explanations for political processes and outcomes. Students read and analyze scholarly, journalistic, and popular political arguments using critical thinking skills.  
**Assessment tools:** Exams that require use of concepts, themes and evaluation of explanations. Students demonstrate their understanding of the material on take home or in-class essays that are assigned throughout the course. |
| No. 5 | Learning Outcome: **Produce competent written work.**  
**Narrative:** Competent written work reflects appropriate use of facts, concepts, and arguments by the writer, well-composed texts, and [awkward here] writing (including precision, mechanics)  
**Assessment tools:** This course requires short essay and research assignments assessed for composition and detailed writing, as well as content. Assessment may also include essays that are completed as part of course tests |
| No. 8 | Learning Outcome: **Demonstrate knowledge of social structure and process**  
**Narrative:** Social structure and process include the socially created world of politics, economy, and society. This course focuses on US politics and its interconnections with social structure and economic processes. The main themes of the course include American political culture, political institutions, and political processes including public opinion, public policy, voting behavior, and racial politics, along with other related topics  
**Assessment tools:** Written exams will be the basis for assessing knowledge of social structure and processes. The course may require students to complete assignments that demonstrate the ability to conceptualize and express an understanding of the relevant theories and themes |
| No. 11 | Learning Outcome: **Investigate the nature of citizenship**  
**Narrative:** Citizenship is a complex concept that social scientists interpret as referring to a legal status, a collective identity, and more recently a behavioral and action norm. This course explores the nature of the debate over citizenship and the actual relationship between the US political system and its obligations to citizens. The course also investigates the issue of how citizenship criteria have varied over time and across regions  
**Assessment tools:** Course tests and essays explore the connections between government institutions and citizenship. Structured assignments (including class discussion and participation) will be used to develop civic tolerance and participatory confidence |
| No. 12 | Learning Outcome: **Apply knowledge to complex issues domestically as well as globally such as social justice, globalization, economic growth and distribution, etc. in broad spheres of influence**  
**Narrative:** This course is historical and normative in its orientation. It identifies and seeks to untangle complex questions of how US politics is structured by past choices, as well as how ideas and norms, power inequalities, and other underlying systems structure the policy choices and preferences in US society  
**Assessment tools:** Exams and take-home analytic journals require students to address these broad issues using the knowledge and skills associated with politics. Students may be expected to demonstrate their understanding of complex questions through preparation of a research paper and/or through essays on examinations |