Course Name:Exploring Key Concepts in the Disciplines: Social Sciences
Course Prefix: HNRS
Course Number: SS 2050
             Submitted by (Name & E-Mail):  Judy Elsley, jelsley@weber.edu

Current Date:  10/9/2013
College: Honors
Department:   Honors
From Term: Spring  2014

Substantive

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| new  | Current Course Subject N/ACurrent Course Number |

N/A

**New/Revised Course Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject:  HNRS            Course Number: SS 2050 | Check all that apply: *This is for courses already approved for gen ed.    Use a*[*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm)*for proposing a new gen ed designation.*DV  CA  HU  LS  PS  SS EN  AI  QL  TA  TB  TC  TD  TE |

Course Title: Exploring Key Concepts in the Disciplines: Social Science

Abbreviated Course Title: Exploring Key Concepts

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| --- | --- |
| Course Type:  | LEC |

Credit Hours:  3  **or** if variable hours:    to

Contact Hours: Lecture   Lab    Other

Repeat Information:  Limit 0   Max Hrs 0

Grading Mode:  standard

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This course is/will be: | a required course in a major programa required course in a minor programa required course in a 1- or 2- year programelective |

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

There are no prerequisites for this class, although students will be advised to take HNRS 1520: "Perspectives in the Social Sciences" before enrolling in this 2000 level class.

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites):

HNRS SS 2050: Exploring Key Concepts in the Disciplines: Social Sciences
(3 Credits of Social Science General Education Credit)
This course will focus on the history and development of a central concept in the Social Sciences, using original sources as the primary class texts.

**Justification**for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)

The proposal for this series of classes was developed as the result of a white paper on Honors assessment I wrote in 2010, which was an illuminating and useful exercise that showed us the strengths and weaknesses of the Honors Program curriculum.

While our 1000 level "Perspectives" classes and our 3000 level seminar proved strong in terms of Honors and Weber State’s mission statements, the 2000 level courses in "Intellectual Traditions" were weak. This proposal aims to strengthen that middle level of Honor class offerings.

The intellectual traditions classes represent a classic approach to a liberal arts education. In contrast, this new set of course proposals allows faculty to explore significant ideas in their areas of expertise. These classes will encourage students to:
--- consider the overlap of one discipline with another;
--explore the different kinds of knowledge available to us;
--understand the strengths and limits of any particular approach to knowledge.
These classes help to broaden students' understanding of an increasingly inter-related world, preparing them for careers we can hardly imagine today.

This series of classes will create a more cohesive set of Honors courses. The student begins with "Introduction to Honors" which focuses on the different kinds of knowledge in an academic setting. This overview prepares students for the 1000 level "Perspectives" classes which introduce students to the particular knowledge base of individual disciplines.
This proposal represents the next step for students, at the 2000 level, as they explore the critical concepts and ideas of a particular academic area.

We are configuring these classes to more closely align with the General Education learning outcomes and the Honors learning outcomes. The "Intellectual Traditions" classes offer students a choice of Social Science or Humanities General Education credit whereas the new classes will be specifically designed around the General Education learning outcomes of one particular area.

This is the last class in the 2000 level series that has yet to be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

A range of faculty across campus are well qualified to teach these kinds of classes.

**INFORMATION PAGE**for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?

true

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?

There are no similar classes offered in the departments. This SS proposal is the last course to be submitted for approval, completing the 2000 level series of "Key Concepts in the Disciplines."

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.

There are no similar classes offered in the departments. This SS proposal is the last course to be submitted for approval, completing the 2000 level series of "Key Concepts in the Disciplines."

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?

no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. **For course proposals**, e-mail a syllabus to Faculty Senate which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description.**There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.)**.