Section 1. Course Title and Description

Prefix & No. Course Title Credits
GEOG 421-521 Qualitative Research Methods in Geography 3

Course Description:
The theory and application of qualitative methods in geographic studies. Emphasis on the purpose and effective use of archival, visual, interview, survey, focus group, observation, and ethnography techniques. Design and implementation of research projects using qualitative methods as the primary data collection and analysis tool.

Section 2. Review of Course
X This course will be a unique course. (Go to Section 3.)

Section 3. Other Course Information

1. Are there instructional staffing impacts? X No, schedule management. Explain: Changes to Course Rotations, other courses will be taught less often

2. Existing program in which course will be offered: Geography

3. Proposed instructional method: J - Design/Research
   Provide a brief justification: Students design projects and utilize the scientific method while conducting qualitative research.

4. Proposed primary delivery: 030 Blended/Hybrid

5. Term in which change will be effective: Fall 2014

6. Can this course be repeated for additional credit? No

7. Will the grade for this course be limited to S/U (pass/fail)? X No

8. Will section enrollments be capped? Yes, maximum per section 25

9. Will this course be equated (i.e. considered the same course for degree completion) with any other unique or common course in the course database? X Yes No

10. Is this prefix already approved for your university? X Yes No

Section 4. To be completed by Academic Affairs

1. University department code: SGEOG

2. Proposed CIP code: 450701
   Is this a new CIP code for this university? X Yes No
NEW COURSE REQUEST
Supporting Justification for On-Campus Review

Hilary Hungerford
Request Originator

George W. White
Department Chair

Kathleen Donovan
School/College Dean

Hillary Hungerford
Signature

George White
Signature

Kathleen Donovan
Signature

9/16/2013
Date

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Date

9/16/2013
Date

1. Provide specific reasons for the proposal of this course and explain how the changes enhance the curriculum.

In recent years, the development of research methods has grown tremendously in the field of geography. As a result, proficiency in geographic research methods has become essential to both those entering career fields and those continuing onto graduate studies. Currently, the department requires a single, research methods course for Geography majors (GEOG 382). It is no longer possible to adequately cover the necessary research methods in a single, three-credit course. Adequate coverage can be addressed in two courses, namely in different courses in quantitative and qualitative methods. A separate program modification request converts the existing GEOG 382 course from a broad survey of all geographic research methods with emphasis on quantitative methods into a more thorough investigation of quantitative methods. This proposal creates a distinct qualitative methods course. The department seeks to make the course available to students by adding it as an alternative to the requirement of GEOG 382 in the Geography major. This will allow students to select between a course focused on qualitative vs. quantitative based on the direction of their career. The department will continue to monitor the development of the discipline and the workplace to see if it will be necessary to specifically require this course in the future.

2. Note whether this course is:

X Required (Choice)

3. In addition to the major/program in which this course is offered, what other majors/programs will be affected by this course?

This course will be open to students in all majors, but tailored for Geography majors.

4. If this will be a dual listed course, indicate how the distinction between the two levels will be made.

This course is focused on learning and executing qualitative methods around a central project. Graduate students will be required to focus their project on their thesis ideas/projects and carry out 6 method projects (compared to 4 method projects for undergraduate students). Each project entails performing the research, writing a critical reflection, and presenting the results.

5. Desired section size

25

6. Provide qualifications of faculty who will teach this course. List name(s), rank(s), and degree(s).

Hilary Hungerford, Assistant Professor of Geography, PhD in geography.

7. Note whether adequate facilities are available and list any special equipment that will be needed for the course.

Current facilities are adequate.

8. Note whether adequate library and media support are available for the course.

Library and media support are adequate.
9. Will the new course duplicate courses currently being offered on this campus? No

10. If this course may be offered for variable credit, explain how the amount of credit at each offering is to be determined. N/A

11. Add any additional comments that will aid in the evaluation of this request. N/A