

Severtis, Ron

From: Herb Weisberg [weisberg.1@polisci.osu.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 3:16 PM
To: Brown, Trevor
Cc: Hallihan, Kathleen; Severtis, Ron; Wayne DeYoung; Alan Wiseman; Craig Volden; Charles Smith
Subject: Re: JGSPA Course

Trevor, thanks for the thoughtful response.

We have no problem in 589 in that it is a internship in Washington DC. I assume I'm correct in interpreting 678 similarly: that it is a Washington DC course, so it won't mutate into a Columbus-based course without going through a separate approval process?

And obviously you've given a lot of thought and discussion to 200, and you've defined fairly clearly where your emphasis begins and ends, which should help avoid further overlap with our 305 course, so that sounds good enough to us.

Herb

On Jun 5, 2009, at 11:53 AM, Brown, Trevor wrote:

Herb,

Thanks for the response. I'm glad to see that we're down to concerns about only two courses – 589 and 200!

On 589, as you note, the syllabus clearly specifies that this is a course in Washington DC. Lots of programs offer internship programs in Columbus and we may consider doing that as well at some date in the future. If we were to do that we would develop a separate course and hence seek a separate approval. We are currently only seeking approval for the 589 course in Washington DC. There's no fear that this course would "mutate" into a Columbus based course under the requested number so it doesn't appear that there's any issue here.

On 200, I must admit that I'm confused. From reading your response it sounds as if the concern you have about overlap is with the mode of delivery – case studies, in-class discussion, memos and exams. I hadn't realized that in seeking concurrence with other units, the review process would focus on how the class was taught, but rather the primary issue with regard to redundancy is the actual content of the course. At the graduate level we use case studies, in-class discussion, memos and exams in many of our classes, as do other units (e.g. Business, Social Work, Public Health, City and Regional Planning, Education Policy and Leadership). When we seek concurrence for our graduate classes with these other units, they don't focus on whether we teach classes similarly, but rather if the content is similar.

In terms of the content, if you look over the syllabi for 200 and PS 305, there are six classes where the two courses cover similar content, and in three of those instances -- the sessions on implementation (sessions 16, 17, 18 in PS 305) -- we take a different and much broader approach which I'll describe below.

We've looked at a couple versions of 305, including the most recent version (Craig kindly passed it along to me a couple of weeks ago). I've heard wonderful things about the course from students. We have no intention of duplicating the content. In fact, we've taken great pains not to have

overlap. As the title of PS 305 indicates, the course is fundamentally about the public policy process, with the primary focus being on how problems are identified, policies formulated and adopted by political institutions and then assigned to bureaucracies for implementation. PubAfrs 200, on the other hand, is fundamentally about how the public sector, inclusive of public agencies, nonprofits, private firms, citizens, and political institutions, are organized to DELIVER programs to resolve public problems. If PS 305 is fundamentally about how the political process decides which problems to solve and how we get the policies from political institutions that we do, PubAfrs 200 is about how we organize various actors in society to actually deliver the programs. As you look at the directions for the case study applications in PubAfrs 200 the focus is not on why political institutions produce the policies they do, but rather how actors across a variety of contexts -- public, private and nonprofit -- make decisions about how to deliver public programs.

PubAfrs 200 devotes three classes to an understanding of the policy process -- classes 3, 4 and 5. The rest of the course is devoted to the organization of various arenas in the public sector -- public agencies, private firms, nonprofits -- and how actors make decisions in those arenas about the administration of public programs. PS 305 devotes three sessions to implementation (session 16, 17, 18) and the focus is narrowly on the bureaucracy and perhaps the intergovernmental system in session 18 (although that's my implicit reading; it's not specified in the syllabus). The courses are connected but they're fundamentally different. As to whether students would find the two courses duplicative, I have to disagree. After you read through this I hope that you'll concur.

Sincerely,

Trevor

From: Herb Weisberg [<mailto:weisberg.1@polisci.osu.edu>]

Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 8:51 AM

To: Brown, Trevor

Cc: Kathleen Hallihan; Ron Severtis; Wayne DeYoung; Alan Wiseman; Craig Volden; Charles Smith

Subject: Re: JGSPA Course

Dear Trevor,

Thanks for sharing these with us.

The overlap is, in most cases, less than originally, but it turns out to be considerable for PA 200, which is very similar to how we now teach PS 305. Both rely on numerous case studies, in-class discussion, and policy memos, coupled with exams. The topics and cases will naturally differ by instructor, but to a large extent these classes will be viewed by future students as substitutes for one another: the overlap is so substantial that having taken one course, there would be little added value in taking the other course. I'm attaching a recent version of the PS 305 syllabus, from winter 2009, since it may be more recent than the version you worked from.

Also, on PA 589, the internship course, our internship program is a long-standing program that primarily deals with students who have internship opportunities in central Ohio, including the state legislature - we recognize that the Glenn Institute has taken over the Washington D.C. internship program that we previously administered and we have no problem with that. We see that the PA 589 syllabus makes clear that this is a Washington internship; we hope that the corresponding forms for course approval make clear that this is

course is outside of Columbus, so that approval of this internship course does not eventually mutate into a Columbus-based internship course.

Again, thanks for letting us preview this material,

Herb