

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University

For Curriculum Committee use		
Semester(s) this course was previously offered:	Proposal Number:	S11-10

COURSE PROPOSAL

Please complete this form with the understanding that you may revise the course description and topics before the catalog is finalized. To see a catalog from last semester, go to the OLLI at ISU Web site: www.isualum.org/olliatisu

If you are completing this form using Microsoft Word, note that it is done in tables form. To see (or to hide) the gridlines, click the Table menu and click Show Gridlines (or Hide Gridlines).

1. Course title: Iowa First in the Nation Presidential Caucuses

2. General field of interest (e.g., Science, Music): _____

3. Curriculum Committee contact person: Donald Nelson
Address: 124 S 11th St City: Nevada Zip: 50201
Phone: 515-382-2060 home E-mail: donelson@iowatelecom.net
515-290-2294 cell

4. Instructor or coordinator: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: 515-294-3825 E-mail: sws@iastate.edu

Brief background of instructor (all or part of this will be used in the catalog):

Dr Steffen Schmidt is an Iowa State University Professor of Political Science

Dr Schmidt is a frequent guest on Iowa Public Radio on the Wednesday Politics program. He is often called "Dr. Politics,". Schmidt is frequently asked to comment on the Iowa caucuses in national media news accounts. He is author of the country's most widely adopted introductory college textbook, "American Government and Politics Today."

5. Course description that can be used to advertise the course in the catalog (you may revise this later if you wish).

The Iowa First in The Nation Presidential Caucuses

Every four years, the **Iowa Presidential Caucuses** attract the national and world spotlight as the first battleground state in the presidential campaign. The caucus format makes it different from other early presidential primary states and adds to its national and world-wide intrigue.

And that's exactly why ISU *University Professor* of Political Science Steffen Schmidt is teaching a course on the Caucuses during the spring of 2011. The course covers the history and future of the Iowa caucuses -- what makes them special, how political parties interact in the process, a review of the historic 2008 caucuses that gave Barack Obama the boost that propelled him to the Presidency, and a preview of the upcoming 2012 caucuses which promise to be one of the most exciting in history.

The course was first taught in 2008 as a distance learning class. It was developed in cooperation with the Iowa Historical Society and the Department of Cultural Affairs' "Iowa Presidential Caucus Exhibit" 2007-2008. Schmidt was a member of the Board of the Caucus

Exhibit at the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. Dr Schmidt shot original video interviews for the class.

Schmidt was the long-time guest of a weekly statewide political call-in show on ISU's National Public Radio affiliate WOI-AM where he has been known as "Dr. Politics." Schmidt is frequently asked to comment on the Iowa caucuses in national and international media news accounts. He is co-author of the country's most widely adopted introductory college textbook, "American Government and Politics Today."

For the 2011 offering Schmidt plans to preview with the class the excellent documentary "First Stop Iowa," which was produced by Australian journalist John Barron.

6. Specific topics to be covered in the number of classes proposed:

See above.

4-week class for Spring of 2011

This paragraph should be on page 2. If you needed more space than was provided on page 1, this paragraph will have moved to page 3. To move it back to page 2, click before the first word of this paragraph and press Backspace to remove the page break.

7. Preferred

class size: ___ 15 or less ___ 16-25 ___ 26-35 ___ 36-45 ___ 46-55 ___ 55 or more

8. Preferred session

(include year) : ___ Sept.-Nov. ___ Jan.-Feb. X March-May

9. Preferred number of weeks and sessions:

X 4 weeks ___ 6 weeks ___ 8 weeks
 X Once a week ___ Twice a week

10. Check preferred class time. Put N/A where you are not available.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Comments
9:00-10:30					
11:00-12:30			X		
1:00-2:30					
3:00-4:30					

11. Recommended textbook (if any): _____

Where to obtain: _____
 Cost of textbook: _____
 Students will pay: ___ Instructor ___ OLLI at ISU when registering

12. Copying:

If a large quantity of printed materials is proposed, materials may be offered as a packet to be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Cost of printing, if substantial, may be added to cost of course.

Estimated number of pages to be copied for each session: _____

13. Requested equipment

Please check choices. (A more detailed form will be provided for your use before classes begin.)

X DVD player X LCD projector ___ 35mm slide projector
 ___ VHS player ___ Elmo (opaque) projector ___ Lapel microphone
 ___ CD player ___ Overhead transparency projector ___ Laser pointer

14. Please list any potential guest presenters and city in which they live:

15. Is travel reimbursement requested? ___ Yes ___ No