Library Resources Review

For the course: Minority Politics (POL 110)

This report was written up in response to an agenda item for the UEPC. The current POL 110 is requesting to have an additional .25 credits added to the course, specifically adding a community-based research element. There has been no formal request for a library resource review from the Politics department.

It is essential that the Library be told of changes to courses that involve a research element. This allows the Library to expand their collection in the proper ways to aid the students in their individual research needs. This is an attempt to put together such a report to address this issue.

I. Library Resource Needs
   A. Faculty Course Preparation: Dr. Longo provided a reading list of books for the class.
   B. Reserve Readings and film/videos for reserve: none indicated for this class
   C. Types of materials needed for student assignments. The syllabus indicates that there are literature reviews and online research, written by organized working groups, and working with community organizations. There is also a final paper that indicates there is a need for footnotes and endnotes.

II. Currently Available Library Resources
   A. Reference Materials: The Library provides general resources on developing countries with such titles as Encyclopedia of Asian American Issues Today (2010), Latinos in the New Millennium: An Almanac of Opinion, Behavior, and Policy Preferences (2012), and Racial and Ethnic Relations in America (2000). The Library also has access to online reference encyclopedias through Gale Virtual Reference Library, Oxford Reference Online, and Sage e-Reference. The reference collection is adequate for the needs of this course, based upon the information received about them.
   B. Books: The Library has a general collection of books and other materials relating to ethnicity, minorities, and politics for the United States. In addition, the Library is a part of the Link+ network to retrieve more specific materials not owned by SMC. The Library’s collection should be adequate for the needs of this course.
   C. Periodical Indices: The Library subscribes to many on-line periodical indices, with some including full access to a wide variety of articles. These include: Academic OneFile, Alt-Press Watch, Sociological Abstracts, Hispanic American Literature Index (HAPI), Academic Search Complete, Lexis-Nexis Academic (for newspaper articles from 1980 to the present)
and *PAIS International*. These indices should be sufficient for the research paper indicated in the syllabus.

D. **Periodicals**: Examples of periodicals that the Library subscribes to include: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *P.S. Political Science and Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. These periodicals, amongst many others not mentioned, should be sufficient based on the information received about the course.

E. **Media/Videos**: The Library subscribes to two online streaming video collections: *Academic Video Online (VAST)* and *Films on Demand*. Both offer films relating to ethnicity, minorities, and politics.

F. **Additional Periodicals as requested**
   None

III. **Opportunities to Develop Information Literacy Skills**
A. This course offers excellent opportunities to develop information literacy skills, especially if students need to do a literature review. Literature reviews are research oriented, and students would need to learn research skills in order for them to get the best resources for their papers. I look forward to hearing how the Library can aid in this effort, what materials we might need to purchase, and whether a librarian can provide a library session to the students.

Susan Birkenseer  
Reference and Instruction Librarian  
Saint Mary’s College  
April, 2013