

Proposal for Program Change in the International Relations Major of the Department of Political Science

Date: October 14, 2016

Prepared by: Mary McCarthy (Chair, International Relations Committee) and IR Committee

Approved by: Department of Political Science (11/14/2016)

The Department of Political Science is proposing program revisions to the International Relations major in order to better meet student needs.

Proposed Changes

Core Requirements

Current Requirements	New Requirements
Language Study (two years or equivalent)	Language Study (two years or equivalent)
ECON 001 Macroeconomics	Eliminate
ECON 002 Microeconomics	Eliminate
SCGS 002 World Geography OR SCGS 003 Human Geography	Eliminate
POLS 065 Comparative Politics	POLS 065 Comparative Politics
POLS 075 World Politics	POLS 075 World Politics
XXXXX	POLS 170 International Law
POLS 179 American Foreign Policy OR HIST 113 OR HIST 168	POLS 1xx Int'l Security (new course)
POLS 126 Political Economy of Globalization OR ECON 130 OR ECON 175	POLS 126 Political Economy of Globalization
POLS 192 Senior Seminar	POLS 192 Senior Seminar (Capstone Experience)

Electives

Current Requirements	New Requirements
7 courses: 3 in Comparative (2 in single region, 1 in cross-regional), 3 in Thematic, 1 anywhere	8 courses: 2 in regional category, 2 in cross-regional category, 2 in thematic category; 2 anywhere

Total Credit Hours

Current Requirements	New Requirements
36+21=57 (includes language)	30+24=54 (includes language)

Background

In fall 2015, the Department of Political Science created an International Relations (IR) Committee that consisted of the following individuals: Deb DeLaet, Mahmoud Hamad, Mary McCarthy (Chair), Joanna Mosser, David Skidmore, and Eleanor Zeff. The primary goal of the committee during the fall 2015, spring 2016, and early fall 2016 semesters was to review the current curricular requirements for the IR major and consider what revisions were necessary in order to better serve the needs of our students and the department. (For additional details, see appendix 1.)

We began by deciding upon our guiding principles for this task. The guiding principles we chose to structure our review and revision of the IR curriculum were: preserve interdisciplinary nature of, create greater coherence of, and simplify the major.

Towards this end, the committee next fine-tuned our learning outcomes for the major under the three categories of content, skills, and attitude.

- Content
 - Understand that people's responses to common problems are shaped by varied political, historical, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts.
 - Understand the distinct contributions of diverse disciplines to our knowledge about global issues.
 - Grasp contending concepts and theories that attempt to explain patterns of international cooperation and conflict and apply these theories to historical and contemporary cases.

- Skills
 - Become critical readers of books and articles about international relations and relate this information to their own lives.
 - Develop language and related skills allowing them to engage effectively in intercultural communication.
 - Develop the ability to make a reasoned and persuasive written argument in the context of knowledge and ideas about international relations.
- Attitude
 - Be prepared to act as responsible global citizens, defined as “active political, social, environmental or economic agents in an interdependent world in which new institutional forms beyond nations are beginning to emerge.” ([Lagos](#))

Rationale for Changes

The IR Committee believes, and the whole department concurs, that the new IR requirements achieve our goals, in terms of guiding principles, learning outcomes, and better serving the needs of our students and department in the following concrete ways:

Greater Coherence

By emphasizing political science more as the core, we enhance the intellectual coherence of the major. We have chosen to maintain the major as interdisciplinary as this best serves the diverse interests and post-graduation goals of our students. However, the interdisciplinarity of the major will occur mostly in the electives stage, while the core is political science (and language). To further the goal of coherence, we have revised our list of approved electives under the rule that all courses must engage primarily with the twentieth or twenty-first centuries and accomplish one or more of the content learning outcomes above. This electives list will be continuously reviewed as new courses become available (or unavailable).

More Intentional Achievement of Learning Outcomes

Under learning outcomes, the three content bullets reflect the comparative, interdisciplinary, and world parts of our major, respectively. Each course in the core, other than language, is connected explicitly with the first or third (or both first and third) bullet of the content-based learning outcomes above. The requirements as a whole explicitly engage with all three of these bullets, while the language requirement responds to what we see as a necessary skill. We are confident that a student who has completed the new requirements will have achieved all of the learning outcomes above.

Simplified Curriculum Structure

We have eliminated the availability of options within the core. Students must take 6 specific courses rather than choosing among a variety of options in the core. (This is with the exception of language, of course.) This further enhances coherence.

Better Fit Within the Discipline of Political Science

In its Final Program Review Report for the Politics major (January 2014), the department noted the challenges of administering two programs, a disciplinary Politics major and an interdisciplinary IR major. These curricular revisions address that issue by enhancing the political science core of the major. Under the new requirements, a minimum of 18 credits need to be taken within the department (as opposed to 9 credits under the old requirements). Although the 24 elective credits can be taken in other departments or during study abroad, the majority of those credits is also likely to be taken within the department due to the revision of approved electives as described above. (For sample electives list, see appendix 2.) Nevertheless, we have retained a language requirement and the inclusion of those elective courses from other disciplines that are most relevant to the learning objectives of the major. These courses serve much the same purpose as the related field requirement within the Politics major.

More Comprehensive Embrace of International Relations in the Discipline of Political Science

The field of International Relations has traditionally stood upon a conceptual and theoretical triad: international security focused on issues of war and peace, international political economy focused on the political organization of the world economy, and international law focused on the legal, normative and institutional structures of international order. The new core will reflect this conceptual division of labor by requiring one course devoted to each of these three subfields. This better reflects the organization of the field and provides students with a coherent and comprehensive grounding in its major branches of study. A number of courses that previously appeared as required or optional within the core now appear as electives. This includes Pols 179 American Foreign Policy.

Staffing Demands

The proposed program revisions utilize existing resources within the Department of Political Science. The only new course being proposed is Pols 1xx International Security. If approved, it will be offered for the first time in spring 2019 by David Skidmore. Pols 1xx, Pols 170, and Pols 126 will each be offered every second or third semester. Deb DeLaet will be the primary instructor for Pols 170 and Mary McCarthy will be the primary instructor for Pols 126. However, each of these courses can be taught by other faculty in the department as well.

Appendix 1:

The IR Committee was formed in fall 2016 and met a total of nine times to discuss and create the proposed revisions (11/4/15, 11/10/15, 12/9/15, 2/9/16, 2/23/16, 3/8/16, 3/29/16, 9/20/16, and 9/27/16). Membership in the Committee was on a voluntary basis and all members of the department were invited to join. The IR Committee chair updated the full department on the Committee's progress at occasional department meetings and presented the full proposal (with unanimous support of the Committee) to the department on October 10, 2016. Comments of the department were incorporated into this revised document, which was then presented to the Committee for their approval before final presentation to the full department.

Appendix 2: Sample List of Electives Courses

Regional: 2 courses in a single region

Europe	
HIST 099 - European Women's History	3
HIST 134 - Contemporary Europe	3
POLS 128 - Nationalism/Politics of Eastern Europe	3
POLS 160 - Modern Europe Political Systems	3
POLS 161 - Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union	3
POLS 171 - Political Integration of Europe	3
Latin America	
HIST 123 - Modern Mexico	3
HIST 126 - Modern Latin America	3
Asia	
HIST 129 - Modern China	3
HIST 130 - Twentieth Century China	3
HIST 132 - Modern Japan	3
SCSS 130 - Contemporary Chinese Society	3
POLS 162 - Government and Politics of China	3
POLS 163 - Government and Politics of Japan	3
POLS 139 - Comparative Asian Politics	3
Africa	
HIST 067 - Sustainable Development in Africa	6
HIST 140 - Africa's Colonial Movement	3
HIST 161 - Africa, Africans, and Atlantic Slavery	3
Middle East	
POLS 133 - The Middle East Through Film	3
POLS 134 - History, Politics, and Society of Modern Egypt	3
POLS 135 - Islam in the 21st Century	3
POLS 136 - The Arab-Israeli Conflict	3

POLS 174 - Politics in the Middle East 3

Cross-regional: 2 courses

Cross-Regional	
POLS 129 - Transitions to Democracy	3
POLS 135 - Islam in the 21st Century	3
POLS 137 - Comparative Law & Courts	3
POLS 165 - Government and Politics of Developing Nations	3
POLS 166 - Comparative Political Parties	3
POLS 168 - Politics & Parliaments	3

Thematic: 2 courses

ECON 130 - International Economics	3
ECON 175 - Developing Economies	3
ENG 166 - Literature of War	3
HIST 113 - America as a World Power	3
HIST 139 - World War I	
HIST 168- U.S. Interventionism	3
HIST 169 - U.S. and Origins of the Cold War	
POLS 121 - U.N./Global Security	3
POLS 124 - Revisiting Vietnam	3
POLS 125 - Post-Conflict Justice	3
POLS 127 - Global Health	3
POLS 169 – Expressions of Sovereignty	3
POLS 173 - Human Rights/World Politics	
POLS 176 - Gender/World Politics	3
POLS 178 - U.S.-East Asian Relations	3
POLS 179 - American Foreign Policy	3
PSY 134 - Ethnopolitical Conflict	
SCSR 112 - Rhetoric & War	3
SCSS 072 - Global Social Change	3
SCSS 173 – Global Citizenship	3
WLC 148 - Intercultural Communication	

Approved

Proposed Revision to the Minor in Latin American Studies
Marc Pinheiro-Cadd
November 28, 2016

The Department of World Languages and Cultures proposes changing the required number of credit hours for the successful completion of the Minor in Latin American Studies from 18 to 19. The one-credit-hour addition would be met by WLC 147, Capstone for WLC Minors. This course is required for all other minors in WLC: the Minor in East Asian Studies and the Minor in Arabic (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish) Language and Culture.

The students in WLC 147 create an electronic portfolio that is primarily reflective in nature. They contemplate how the courses they took to fulfill the minor's requirements comprise a whole that is more than a list of courses. They examine the intersection of how language and culture affect their understanding of Latin America.





The completed ePortfolio is beneficial to students as they apply for jobs and/or graduate school. Additionally, the portfolio facilitates the department's ongoing assessment efforts with the ultimate goal of providing a better educational experience for the students.

Course Title	International Environmental Seminar: Sustainable Development in Belize
Department and Course Number	ENSP 111
Instructor(s) for the course	David Courard-Hauri
Semester and Year offered: J-term or summer	J-term
Credit Hours	3
Course Description	<p>The International Environmental Seminar enables students to gain an appreciation of the ecological and social aspects of environmental issues through an intense immersion experience in a developing country. Students will explore aspects of sustainable development and environmental justice within a specific national context. In general, discussion topics will include tropical ecology, the politics of land use, the effects of conflict on environmental systems, and the interaction between economic development and sustainability.</p>
Has this course been approved by your Department Chair?	Yes
What semester and year was this course first offered?	J-term 2016
Are there any significant changes to this course?* *If you are making significant changes to this course (to the course number, credit hours, catalogue course description, etc.) please use the Course Change	No

Form.

Course Title	ISLAM IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Department and Course Number	POLS 135
Instructor(s) for the course	Mahmoud Hamad
Semester and Year offered: J-term or summer	J-term 2018
Credit Hours	3
Course Description	<p>Religion has been always a dominant force in Egypt. Religious influence was pervasive affecting almost every aspect of life. Egyptian religion developed from simple polytheism to philosophic monotheism. Then came the era of the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam; three religions with deep roots alongside the banks of the Nile. How did religion shape the politics and society of Egypt from the dawn of civilization to the present day? This seminar is designed with keen attention to details to enable every participant regardless of her background, field of study, and expertise to learn in a fun and collaborative atmosphere. During the trip, participants will dive in the accumulated wealth of art and architecture, religions and civilizations, food and cuisine of thousands of years.</p>
Has this course been approved by your Department Chair?	Yes
What semester and year was this course first offered?	Summer 2012
Are there any significant changes to this course?* *If you are making significant changes to this course (to the course number, credit hours, catalogue course	No

**description, etc.)
please use the
Course Change
Form.**

Course Title	Auditions NYC	
Department and Course Number	<u>THEA 102</u>	
Instructor(s) for the course	Karla Kash	
Semester and Year offered: J-term or summer	<u>J-term 2016</u>	
Credit Hours	3	
Course Description	<u>To gain the skills needed to audition for the professional theatre.</u>	
		
Has this course been approved by your Department Chair?	<u>It was last time</u>	
What semester and year was this course first offered?	J-term 2016	
Are there any significant changes to this course?* *If you are making significant changes to this course (to the course number, credit hours, catalogue course description, etc.) please use the Course Change Form.	No	