

Curricular Proposal
2008-09
Department of History and Political Science

Proposal I: ~~Change the title and description of POL 301 from *European Governments & European Union* to *Transitions to Democracy*.~~

Proposal II: Remove POL 350 (*Rebuilding Devastated States*) from the catalog (no replacement) (2 units)

Proposal III: ~~Change the title and description of POL 360 from *California Politics* to *Urban Politics*.~~

Proposal IV: ~~Change the title and description of POL 455 from *Social Movements in Religion and World Politics* to *Protest and Social Movements in World Politics*.~~

Total course additions: 0

Total course deletions: 1

Total unit additions: 0 units

Total unit deletions: 2 units

Staffing increase/decrease: none

Proposal I: Change the title and description of POL 301 from *European Governments & European Union to Transitions to Democracy*.

Rationale: Given the recent hires, our department's expertise lies more in the realm of comparative democratization than in European governments. In addition, much of the material (theories, case studies, and arguments) covered in the European literature is also covered in the comparative democratization literature, but in a more expansive way.

Catalog Copy:

POL 301 (4) TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

This course looks at the democratization process from start to finish. We will analyze and explore all phases, from the initial cracks in the authoritarian regime to consolidation to issues of transitional justice. A transition to democracy can be long and full of challenges; this course will deconstruct the process in stages so as to provide an overview of conditions that might help or hinder the process. We will look primarily at "third wave" transitions (1974-1991), such as Portugal, Chile, Argentina, Germany, and the former Soviet Union; however, we will also study current day examples of both transitions to and away from democracy, for instance in South Africa, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Proposal II: Remove POL 350 (*Rebuilding Devastated States*) from the catalog (no replacement) (2 units)

Rationale: This course is no longer very applicable in the field of political science and the most pertinent material will be covered in POL 301 (above).

Catalog Copy: N/A

Proposal III: Change the title and description of POL 360 from *California Politics to Urban Politics*.

Rationale: Given the recent hires, our department's expertise now lies more in the field of urban American politics, a more expansive area than California politics. Much of the course covers Los Angeles and San Diego, incorporating elements of California politics more broadly. In this course, we will cover issues of state and local government as we explore what it means to be a federal political system—in terms of public policy—in today's political climate.

Catalog Copy:

POL 360 (4) URBAN POLITICS

This course will introduce students to the study of urban politics. We will discuss the history of American cities and consider their current politics, primarily through the lens of race and class.

~~We will also discuss some of the most significant political and policy problems affecting our urban areas today, including urban violence, education, housing, and employment.~~

~~Proposal IV: Change the title and description of POL 455 from *Social Movements in Religion and World Politics* to *Protest and Social Movements in World Politics*~~

~~Rationale: The title change represents more of just a title change rather than a whole course description change. The title change better reflects some of the new course material integrated into the course.~~

~~Catalog Copy:~~

~~POL 455 (4) PROTEST AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN WORLD POLITICS~~

~~Protest and social movements have become permanent features of our society, constantly challenging political institutions and the status quo and tirelessly fighting for change in a culture that doesn't always value change. Social movements typically have political goals and seek to engage in anything from simple transformation to full scale revolution. This course looks at the theories and concepts behind studies of social movements and seeks to answer such questions as why do they happen and are they effective? In addition to theory, this course will be based on case study analysis of particular social movements in world politics — for instance, urban protests, civil rights movements, environmental causes, democratization movements, religious movements, and gender-related movements.~~