

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE LONG FORM PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, SUBMITTED FALL 2017 (11/17/17)

SECTION 1: PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Submitted by Lindsey Lupo and Rosco Williamson, co-Chairs

Changes to take place in the 2018-19 Catalog

Proposals A, B, and C are the direct result of Program Review

Proposals A, B, C, and D unanimously approved (7-0) by the History and Political Science Department faculty

Proposal summary:

- A. Add POL473: Senior Seminar in Political Science and International Studies (3 units)
- B. Revise Political Science BA: (a) Add POL473 as a required course; (b) Reduce POL390/POL391 "Capitals Program" requirement from 9 to 6 units; (c) Remove POL 390 from the catalog; (d) Rename the "Capitals Program" (new name: Off-Campus Political Studies Program)
- C. Revise International Studies BA: (a) Add POL473 as a required course; (b) Reduce Electives requirement from 8 to 6 units; (c) Increase Total Units from 51 to 52.
- D. Revise Political Science BA: add POL441: Issues in Public Policy to options in the upper-division American Politics subfield list
- E. Remove "in an Electronic Age" from the course title of POL 341

SECTION 2: IMPACT

None

SECTION 3: WHAT AND WHY

Proposals A-C: Institutional and disciplinary data suggest that culminating experiences are useful tools for students to bring together the skills, knowledge, and practices they have developed over the course of the program's curriculum. A capstone course will provide a focused moment in students' senior year to review and reinforce PLOs. Capstone courses also facilitate senior assessments. The intent is to have Political Science and International Studies majors take the class together – they will have already taken several classes together throughout the curriculum, so combining these seniors should be smooth.

We will almost certainly be removing an elective course from the Catalog to make FTE space for this capstone course, but because there is fluctuation in student demand for these courses and because we have at least 2 years from when it placed in the Catalog before the course will be taught (since only Seniors are required to take it), we would like to postpone making a decision as to which elective course will be removed for two years. Thus, on paper it will look like an FTE increase, but no additional units will be taught in that timeframe.

Course Learning Outcomes for POL473:

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate strong written and oral communication skills
2. Articulate vocational calling and aspirations, especially as it relates to her/his field of study
3. Competently pursue this vocation in applying for jobs and/or graduate work
4. Plan, organize, and write a substantial research paper
5. Understand and explain key debates within her/his relevant discipline

Course Outline

- A. Reading Assignments
 1. Weekly reading assignments on key debates within PS and IS disciplines
 2. Reading assignments on vocation and potential careers in PS and IS
- B. Writing Assignments
 1. Weekly reflections on reading assignments
 2. Exams assessing understanding and ability to articulate discussions surrounding key discipline debates and vocation
- C. Research Project
 1. Students select topic of their choosing and/or choose to build upon a research paper from an earlier course
 2. Use multiple sources, focusing on separating “good” sources from “not-so-good”
 3. Develop multiple drafts, which are reviewed and edited by peers
 4. Provide regular oral reports on research and progress on research
 5. Present the research at a Student Research Conference
- D. In Class Discussions/Experiences
 1. Class discussions on readings
 2. Guest speakers on vocation
 3. Local field trips to gain more insight into career opportunities

Proposal B: The Off-Campus Political Studies Program (POL 391) is when we ask Political Science students to “study abroad” and enroll in upper division political science courses relevant to their specific interests. Students most typically study for an entire semester in another country or in Washington, DC or Sacramento. The reduction in units in this program provides curricular space for the addition of the capstone course. In addition, we are increasingly finding that transfer and other non-traditional

students have a more difficult time going elsewhere for an entire semester (which the current 9 unit requirement necessitates) – the reduction to 6 units creates opportunities to fulfill this requirement over the summer. Finally, the name change reflects the fact that students are increasingly studying in non-capital cities, thus we'd like the name to indicate the wide variety of options available for a global studies experience. And the removal of POL 390 (previously used to transfer in classes from our domestic study abroad programs) is simply to streamline the process – all off-campus programs will come in as POL 391.

Proposal C: Currently, the Political Science program is a total of 52 units, while the International Studies major is a total of 51 units. Reducing the electives to 6 makes more logistical sense than reducing it to 5 units (since all Elective classes are 3-4 units). Increasing the International Studies program total to 52 puts it at the same requirement as the Political Science program.

Proposal D: Advisors already do this on a case-by-case basis with a note to the Records Office. As Political Science course offerings have shifted over the years, and as the expertise of the Political Science faculty has also shifted, POL380: Congress and the Presidency has been taught less regularly and typically by an adjunct. POL441: Issues in Public Policy is taught more regularly, covers a great deal of content central to an American Government subfield, and is more relevant to other students outside the major. This proposal will not change the number of times POL441 is currently offered.

SECTION 4: FOR NEW PROGRAMS ONLY -- no new programs being proposed.

SECTION 5: CATALOG EDITS

Proposed New Catalog Description

POL473 (3) SENIOR SEMINAR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Senior Seminar is the capstone experience for all Political Science and International Studies majors, representing the culmination of the knowledge and skills students have developed throughout their previous courses. All Political Science and International Studies majors must take this course in their senior year.

Additional catalog edits have been sent as separate documents.

SECTION 6: SUMMARY CHECKLIST

Total Course Additions: 1

Total Course Deletions: 0

Total Unit Additions: To Political Science Program: 0
To International Studies Program: 1
In Terms of FTE: 3

Staff Impact: None

We have reviewed this proposal and the items above and believe the proposal meets all University requirements and is ready for APC review.

History and Political Science Department Direct Report:

_____ **Date:** _____

_____ **Date:** _____

College Dean:

_____ **Date:** _____