

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

Title of the proposed minor: Revision to the Undergraduate Minor in Political Science

SPONSOR : Bob Pahre, Department Head Political Science, pahre@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Academic Policy,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 333-1350.

Brief description of the program of study:

A minor in political science is designed for students who want to improve their ability to deal intelligently and critically with issues and ideas about government and politics. The minor introduces students to courses involving important theoretical and applied questions about the role of citizens, associations, and states in the application of political power. Students will be exposed to advanced courses that build on relevant introductory courses.

Justification: The Department of Political Science is revising its undergraduate minor in conjunction with revisions to its major. We are removing sub-fields from the minor, making it more like the general concentration in the major. There is enough flexibility for students to choose an area of focus, and we expect many to do this. However, we did not deem it necessary to require this specialization, as some students will be better served with greater breadth in the minor. In practice, such “breadth” will mean focusing on two subfields in the discipline.

After discussion of the choice between depth and breadth, the faculty decided that students would best be served by discussing their plans with their advisors. The decision depends in part on each student’s major field of study and the way that it connects to Political Science.

Consistent with the revised major, we treat PS 100 as the introduction to the discipline, and PS 101 as the introduction to a sub-field; PS 101 Introduction to American Politics previously served as an introduction to the discipline.

The revised minor offers greater coherence than the current minor, by requiring all students to take the common disciplinary introduction, PS 100, instead of allowing PS 101 as an option. The proposed minor moves this previous flexibility to the next requirement, where students will choose two of our courses providing an introduction to a subfield. At the 300- and 400-level, almost all courses in Political Science require the subfield introduction as a prerequisite for the advanced class. Some 300-level courses straddle two subfields, so we decided to eliminate the complicated language governing advanced courses in the current minor, using the prerequisites for each course to guide students to advanced courses that build on those introductory courses they have already taken. The result at the 300- and 400-level will be essentially unchanged, but easier to communicate, and easier to accommodate transfer students who take introductory courses elsewhere.

The existing minor in Political and Civic Leadership will remain unchanged.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

This proposal relies on existing courses and staff. We already teach both PS 100 and PS 101 every semester, and this will continue.

There will be no impact on our technology, space, or library needs. This proposal uses existing staff and courses. We do not anticipate any negative effects on other units.

Requirements:

Hours	Requirements
3	PS 100 Introduction to Political Science
6	Select additional 100- or 200-level Political Science courses
9	Select additional 300- or 400-level Political Science courses from courses offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Prerequisites for the minor: There are no prerequisites for enrollment in the minor.

Expected enrollment in the minor: The current minor enrolls about forty students each year.

Admission to the minor: The Department will not limit enrollment to the minor.

Minor advisor: The department’s advisors will continue to advise our minors.

Certification of successful completion: Successful completion of a minor will take place as part of the routine certification for graduation.

CLEARANCES:

Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit:

Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit:

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee:

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2018.

Statement for the Academic Catalog:

Minor in Political Science

A minor in political science is designed for students who want to improve their ability to deal intelligently and critically with issues and ideas about government and politics. The minor introduces students to courses involving important theoretical and applied questions about the role of citizens, associations, and states in the application of political power. Students will be exposed to advanced courses that build on relevant introductory courses.

Requirements	Hours
PS 100 Introduction to Political Science	3
Select two additional 100- or 200-level Political Science courses	6
Select three 300- or 400-level Political Science courses from courses offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus.	9
Total Hours	18

Appendix A

Comparative Table of Proposed Changes

Current Requirements	Current Hours	Proposed Requirements	Proposed Hours
Select one of the following: PS 100 Intro to Political Science(or PS 200 Foundation of Pol Sci) OR PS 101 Intro to US Gov & Pol	3	PS 100 Intro to Political Science	3
Select at least two of the following courses: PS 201 US Racial & Ethnic Politics PS 220 Intro to Public Policy PS 230 Intro to Pol Research PS 240 Intro to Comp Politics PS 270 Intro to Political Theory PS 280 Intro to Intl Relations	6	Select two additional 100- or 200-level Political Science courses	6
Select at least three courses at the 300-level. These courses must be selected from sub-fields in which credit already has been completed. For a listing of courses by sub-field see the Curriculum Planning Map.	9	Select three 300- or 400-level Political Science courses from courses offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus.	9
Total Hours	18	Total Hours	18

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AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.18.23

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



October 23, 2017

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences revise the undergraduate minor in Political Science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn A. Martensen".

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Ritter
A. Elli
R. Pahre

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448
Urbana, IL 61801



October 23, 2017

Kathryn Martensen
Associate Provost
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
207 Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

Revision of the Undergraduate Minor in Political Science

Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Ritter'.

Kelly Ritter
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Professor Bob Pahre