



October 19, 2022

Dear ASCC Members,

I'm writing in my capacity as the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Department of Political Science. The purpose of this memo is to explain the proposed changes to our Campaigns and Elections minor. Specifically, we are seeking to replace the current required course (Political Science 4160: Public Opinion) with another course (Political Science 2150: Voters and Elections). There are a few other changes made to the elective courses to reflect changes in our course offerings, but this is the main substantive change.

The motivation for this change is both pedagogical and logistical. I'll summarize each in turn:

- Originally, these two courses were quite similar in terms of substantive content — both covering the science of voter decision-making. The main difference was the depth and rigor of the course. As a pre-major course, 2150 sought to provide students with “basic knowledge” of these topics; 4160 sought to provide “in-depth knowledge.”

However, these differences have largely disappeared over time. One reason is that Prof. Tom Wood took over 2150 and generally teaches it at a more advanced level than was previously the case. Second, we recently modified the course and received approval to include as part of the Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World GE theme. This required ensuring that it was “more advanced” than an introductory-level, foundations course.

- Second, while 2150 is offered at least once a year, 4160 is now offered much less frequently. Since this is a required course, that obviously makes it more difficult for students to complete the minor.

For both of these reasons, making this substitution seems to us quite prudent and programmatically sound. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Kogan

Associate Professor