

To: Curriculum Committee, SBS
From: Herbert Weisberg, Chair, Department of Political Science
Date: November 15, 2006

PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED MINOR PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

We propose the creation of six focused minors in political science and a general minor in political science. The six focused minors are: Campaigns and Elections, Comparative Politics, Judicial Politics, Political Decision Making, Political Theory and World Politics. The rationale and requirements for each of these minors are detailed below.

Rationale:

As currently designed, a minor in political science consists of 25 credit hours of political science course work taken at the 200-level or above. Of these hours, a minimum of 15 hours of course work must be at the 500-level or above. [See attached Political Science Minor form.]

As currently constituted, the political science minor allows students to be quite eclectic in their course selection. Given that they only need 25 hours of course work, students can assemble a hodge-podge of courses (or even use GEC courses) to complete the minor. While we often suggest that minor courses center around a particular field or theme, students continue to collect an assortment of classes that, while certainly informative, tend to serve no real purpose other than getting students to the required number of credits to graduate.

A visit to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' website provides undergraduates with information on major and minor programs for all departments within the College. However, a quick scan of the requirements for the political science minor reveals a program that is woefully out of date. [http://www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/pdf/Political_Science_Minor.pdf] *Indeed, the information on this website has not been updated since September of 2002 despite repeated requests.* According to the information presented, an undergraduate could be led to believe that there are ten different "minor programs" available in political science. While the outdated information sheet does explain that these programs are "suggested models," it is not clear what that means and students frequently think that they must organize their courses in such a way as to provide a focus for the minor. According to the website, such foci can include "communist systems" and "third world politics." We propose creating a series of truly focused minors.

Revising the political science minor program to provide a series of focused minors will serve three goals. First, it will accommodate the interests and needs of students from a variety of majors who want to develop a coherent and intellectually sound educational program in our nationally ranked department. Second, it will allow students to gain foundational knowledge in various sub-fields of political science in preparation for their post-college careers.

The second goal requires some explication. Undergraduates are constantly envisioning ways to make themselves stand out from other students when applying for law school or graduate study. These new minor programs would each receive a three digit permacun number and students'

transcripts would identify their minor program as, for example, “Political Science: Comparative Politics” or “Political Science: World Politics” rather than just the general “Political Science.”

Students choosing one of the focused minors would be allowed to overlap courses with the GEC where applicable. Currently, undergraduates can apply five political science courses to their GEC program (Polit Sc 245, 367, 508, 585 and 597) that would also satisfy the requirements for the minor. There is no reason to discontinue that practice.

Undergraduates pursuing an honors minor would be little inconvenienced by the proposed change in the minor program. Currently the honors minor consists of 25 or more credit hours in 200-level honors courses and other political science courses 300-level and above. Honors minor programs must include: 1) at least 20 hours of graded credit in political science courses at the 500-level or higher; 2) at least one course in each of two different fields; and 3) at least 10 credit hours in upper division political science honors courses and seminars. Honors minor programs may include five credit hours in another department, with approval of an honors advisor. Also, it has been customary in the past to allow honors students to substitute a 600- or 700-level political science course for an honors political science course. Students must maintain a 3.4 GPA overall and a 3.5 GPA in political science.

New focused minors:

(1) The **Campaigns and Elections** minor provides students with knowledge and analytical tools necessary to understand the election process and political campaigning in the United States. Students pursuing a minor in Campaigns and Elections must complete Polit Sc 503, Public Opinion, plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 581, Survey Research in Political Science, Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc 300	American Politics and Policy Making
Polit Sc 305	Introduction to Public Policy
Polit Sc 502	Campaign Politics
Polit Sc 503	Public Opinion
Polit Sc H567	Politics and Ethics
Polit Sc 571	Political Theories of Democracy
Polit Sc 574	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
Polit Sc 575	American Political Parties

(2) The **Comparative Politics** minor is intended to give students in-depth knowledge of the politics of contemporary nation-states and tools for comparative analysis to prepare them to work more effectively in an increasingly globalized environment. Students pursuing a minor in Comparative Politics must complete either Polit Sc 535, Government and Politics of Modern Democracies (if their primary interest is in the developed world), or Polit Sc 541, Politics of the

Developing World (if their primary interest is in the developing world), plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc 528	Political Integration of Western Europe
Polit Sc 530	Politics of Post-Communist Societies of Eastern Europe
Polit Sc H531	Democracy in Muslim Majority Countries
Polit Sc 532	Government and Politics of Southern Europe
Polit Sc 533	Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics
Polit Sc 534	Government and Politics of Northern Europe
Polit Sc 535	Government and Politics of Modern Democracies
Polit Sc 537	Government and Politics of China
Polit Sc 539	Contemporary Politics of South Asia
Polit Sc 540.01	Latin American Government and Politics
Polit Sc 540.02	Special Topics in Latin American Politics
Polit Sc 541	Politics of the Developing World
Polit Sc 546	Politics of the Middle East
Polit Sc 547	Identity Politics
Polit Sc 556	Global Governance
Polit Sc 571	Political Theories of Democracy
Polit Sc 579	Domestic Politics and International Conflict
Polit Sc H565	Power and Resistance
Polit Sc 580	State and Economy
Polit Sc 597.02	Political Problems of the Contemporary World
Polit Sc 636	Southeast Asian Politics

(3) The **Judicial Politics** minor allows students to gain foundational knowledge in judicial politics and judicial behavior in a nationally-ranked sub-field of American politics. It will help students prepare for legal and related careers. Students pursuing a minor in Judicial Politics must complete Polit Sc 516, Judicial Politics, plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc 210/ H210	Introduction to Political Theory (required for Polit Sc 572)
Polit Sc 305	Introduction to Public Policy
Polit Sc 511/ H511	Political Strategy, Public Policy, and the Private Sector
Polit Sc 514	Women and the Law
Polit Sc 515	The Politics of Legal Decision Making
Polit Sc 516	Judicial Politics
Polit Sc 519	Civil Liberties and the Courts

Polit Sc 520	The American Constitution and Governmental Powers
Polit Sc H521	Supreme Court Decision Making
Polit Sc 572	Political Theories of Justice

(4) The minor in **Political Decision Making** provides students with the knowledge necessary to understand the methods by which citizens and elites arrive at solutions to political problems. Students pursuing a minor in Political Decision Making must complete Polit Sc 517, Legislative Politics, plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 581, Survey Research in Political Science, Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc 300	American Politics and Policy Making
Polit Sc 305	Introduction to Public Policy
Polit Sc 503	Public Opinion
Polit Sc 511/ H511	Political Strategy, Public Policy, and the Private Sector
Polit Sc 513	Women, Government and Public Policy
Polit Sc 515	Politics of Legal Decision Making
Polit Sc 517	Legislative Politics
Polit Sc H521	Supreme Court Decision Making
Polit Sc 545	Foreign Policy Decision Making
Polit Sc 547	Identity Politics
Polit Sc 551	The United Nations System in Global Problem Solving
Polit Sc 574	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
Polit Sc 612	Political Leadership

(5) The **Political Theory** minor allows students to gain foundational knowledge in the history of political thought and helps them develop morally informed attitudes on contemporary political issues. Students pursuing a minor in Political Theory must complete Polit Sc 210, Introduction to Political Theory, plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc. 210/H210	Introduction to Political Theory
Polit Sc H565	Power and Resistance
Polit Sc H567	Politics and Ethics
Polit Sc 568	Islamic Political Philosophy: The Traditional Eras
Polit Sc 569	Islamic Political Philosophy: The Contemporary Era
Polit Sc 571	Political Theories of Democracy
Polit Sc 572	Political Theories of Justice

Polit Sc 573	American Political Ideas
Polit Sc 670	History of Political Theory: Plato to Machiavelli
Polit Sc 671	History of Political Theory: Machiavelli to Hegel
Polit Sc 672	History of Political Theory: Hegel to Present
Polit Sc 673	Political Theory: 20 th Century

(6) The **World Politics** minor is intended to give students foundational knowledge in international relations including the political and economic interactions of the global system and relations between countries and international institutions, in order to prepare them to better understand and to work more effectively in an increasingly globalized environment. Students pursuing a minor in World Politics must complete Polit Sc 245 or H245, The U.S. in World Politics, plus an additional 20 hours of course work from the following list. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply; no more than five hours of internship credit (Polit Sc 589) may apply. Polit Sc 585, Techniques of Political Analysis, Polit Sc 586, Research Methods in Political Science, Polit Sc 590, Topics in Political Science, and Polit Sc H596, Honors Seminar in Political Science, *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor. Up to five hours of course work from another department *may* apply with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

Courses:

Polit Sc 245/H245	The U.S. in World Politics
Polit Sc 544	International Security and Causes of War
Polit Sc 545	Foreign Policy Decision Making
Polit Sc 546	Politics of the Middle East
Polit Sc 547	Identity Politics
Polit Sc 550	Theories of International Relations
Polit Sc 551	The United Nations System in Global Problem Solving
Polit Sc 552	Security Policy During and After the Cold War
Polit Sc 553/ H553	Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
Polit Sc 554	Comparative Political Economy
Polit Sc 555	Soviet and Post-Soviet Foreign Policy
Polit Sc 556	Global Governance
Polit Sc 579	Domestic Politics and International Conflict
Polit Sc 597.01	Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics

In addition to the focused minors, we propose a **General Political Science** minor that would be identical to the current program. As stated above, the current minor in political science consists of 25 credit hours of political science course work taken at the 200-level or above. Of these hours, a minimum of 15 hours of course work must be at the 500-level or above. Our rationale is, first, that political science is after all a discipline, like but different from sociology or anthropology, that does have a coherence of its own. If undergraduates can major in political science, they can surely minor in political science as well. Second, our undergraduate advisers need the flexibility to help students design both general minors and focused minors that are not encompassed by our list. We recognize that some students will still graduate with a minor in political science that has little intellectual coherence.

Finally, the new language on the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences website for the Political Science Minor will state that students seeking a minor in political science should consult with an adviser in the political science department.

**The Ohio State University
Colleges of the Arts and Sciences**

Political Science Minor (Polit Sc, 395)

Department of Political Science, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210-1373; 614-292-2880; <http://www.pswb.ohio-state.edu>

The minor in political science consists of 25 credit hours intended to accommodate the interests and the needs of students from a variety of areas who want to develop a coherent educational program from the courses offered. Students are expected to organize their program to develop a focus on a particular aspect of the political world.

The key to approval of a minor program is a well-thought-out schedule of courses and early departmental approval. The department strongly recommends that a student discuss proposed minor programs with the coordinating adviser before having completed 10 hours of political science.

Of the 25 credit hours required, a maximum of 10 may be at the 200 or 300 level; the remaining hours must be at the 500 or 600 level. A maximum of five hours of courses graded S/U may be applied to the minor. No more than five hours of transfer credit may apply.

The minor programs listed below are suggested models and do not necessarily limit the possibilities of the student. Many of the models list a greater number of courses than is necessary to complete the 25 required credit hours.

After the coordinating adviser in the Department of Political Science has approved the Minor Program Form, you must file the form with your college or school counselor. For further information about the minor program, contact the Department of Political Science.

American political institutions
Political Science 201, 300, 501, 516, 517

Communist systems
Political Science 210, 530, 533, 537, 555

Comparative politics
Political Science 530, 533, 535, 540, 541

International politics
Political Science 245, 545, 550, 551, 553, 555, 560

Judicial politics
Political Science 300, 514, 515, 516, 519, 520

Political ideas
Political Science 210, 571, 573, 670, 671, 672

Practical politics
Political Science 201, 300, 502, 503, 585, 674, 675

State and local politics
Political Science 300, 504, 505, 506, 608, 614

Third world politics
Political Science 537, 541, 553, 560, 636

Western Europe and Japan
Political Science 535, 627, 628, 635, 678

Arts and Sciences minor program guidelines

The following guidelines govern minors.

Required for graduation No

Credit hours required A minimum of 20 (some minors require more)

Transfer credit hours allowed A maximum of 10

Overlap with the GEC Permitted, unless specifically disallowed by an individual minor program.

Overlap with the major Not allowed and

- The minor must be in a different subject than the major.
- The same courses cannot count on the minor and on the major.

Overlap between minors Each minor completed must contain 20 unique hours.

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count on the minor.

Approval required The minor program description sheet indicates if the minor course work must be approved by:

- The academic unit offering the minor, or
- A college/school counselor.

Filing the minor program form The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school counselor.

Changing the minor Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by:

- The academic unit offering the minor, or
- A college/school counselor (depending on the minor).

Colleges of the Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Office
MDM. 09/04/02