



October 4, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

In autumn of 2005, The Committee on the University-Wide Review of Undergraduate Education (popularly known as the McHale Committee) submitted a written report to The Ohio State University Provost, Dr. Barbary Snyder. At the direction of Provost Snyder, the McHale Committee was to give special attention to certain key aspects of undergraduate education including the General Education Curriculum (GEC) and the number of credit hours required for graduation.

As the University reconsiders the basic structure of the GEC program, the Department of Political Science has undertaken a review of its major and minor programs. What follows is a proposal, approved by our department faculty, to revise the minor program in Political Science.

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. That is all. Indeed, as the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences permit overlap between the GEC and minor program requirements, students could enroll in Political Science courses as part of the GEC and pick up a Political Science minor along the way (as many have done).

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 However, a quick scan of the requirements for the political science minor reveals a program that is woefully out of date.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](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 undergraduates could be lead 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 While the outdated information sheet does explain that these programs are "suggested models," it is not clear what that means and students frequently think that they must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. [See attached Political Science Minor form.] According to the website, such foci can include "communist systems" and "third world politics." What we propose is the creation of a series of truly focused minors.

Revising the political science minor program to provide a series of focused minors would serve three functions: 1) it will accommodate the interests and needs of students from a variety of

majors who want to develop a coherent educational program in our nationally ranked department; 2) it will allow students to gain foundational knowledge in various sub-fields of political science in preparation for their post-college careers.

The final function 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, "Comparative Politics" or "International Politics" rather than the more ubiquitous "Political Science."

The six focused minors would be: Judicial Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics, Political Theory, Campaigns and Elections, and Political Decision Making. Requirements for each of these minors are detailed below.

The **Judicial Politics** minor will allow 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 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students must choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics 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.

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
Polit Sc 585	Techniques of Political Analysis
Polit Sc 586	Research Methods in Political Science
Polit Sc H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science

The **Comparative Politics** minor is intended to give students in-depth knowledge of countries' domestic political, economic, and social conditions, preparing students to better understand and to work more effectively in a global government. Students pursuing a minor in Comparative Politics must complete 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students must choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics 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.

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 585	Techniques of Political Analysis
Polit Sc 586	Research Methods in Political Science
Polit Sc H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science
Polit Sc 597.02	Political Problems of the Contemporary World
Polit Sc 636	Southeast Asian Politics

The **International Politics** minor is intended to give students foundational knowledge in international relations including the political and economic interactions of the global system, between countries and international institutions, in order to prepare them to better understand and to work more effectively in a global environment. Students pursuing a minor in International Politics must complete 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students must choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics 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.

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 585	Techniques of Political Analysis
Polit Sc 586	Research Methods in Political Science
Polit Sc H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science
Polit Sc 597.01	Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics

The **Political Theory** minor is intended to accommodate the interests and the needs of students from a variety of majors who want to develop a coherent educational program in a sub-field of political science. This minor will allow students to gain foundational knowledge in political theory and will help students develop informed attitudes on contemporary political issues. Students pursuing a minor in Political Theory must complete 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students can choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics 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.

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 585	Techniques of Political Analysis
Polit Sc 586	Research Methods in Political Science
Polit Sc H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science
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 <sup>th</sup> Century

The **Campaigns and Elections** minor will provide students with basis knowledge necessary to understand the election process and political campaigning in the United States. Students pursuing a minor in Campaigns and Elections must complete 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students can choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics in Political Science) *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

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
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 H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science

The minor in **Political Decision Making** is designed to accommodate the interests and the needs of students from a variety of majors who want to develop a coherent educational program in a sub-field of political science. This minor will provide 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 25 hours of course work from the following list of courses:

**Elective Courses:**

Students can choose a minimum of five courses from the list below. 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. Political Science 590 (Topics in Political Science) *may* count toward the minor with permission of an undergraduate advisor.

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 H565	Power and Resistance
Polit Sc H567	Politics and Ethics
Polit Sc 572	Political Theories of Justice
Polit Sc 574	Political Participation and Voting Behavior\
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 H596	Honors Seminar in Political Science
Polit Sc 612	Political Leadership

The **General Political Science** minor 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.

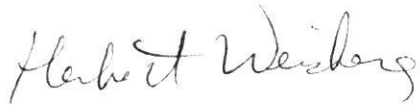
Students choosing one of the focused minors would be allowed to overlap courses with the GEC where applicable. Currently, undergraduates can apply five political science courses to their GEC program (Polit Sc 245, 367, 508, 585 and 597) that would also satisfy the requirements for the minor. There is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

Undergraduates pursuing an Honors Minor would be little inconvenienced by a change in the minor program. Currently the honor 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 3.3 GPA overall and a 3.5 GPA in political science.

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.

The creation of focused minors has been a long time in coming. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

Regards,



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cs/hfw

Encl.

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.psweb.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