## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GOVERNMENT DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020

Dean Randy Diehl in the College of Liberal Arts has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the Government degree program in the College of Liberal Arts chapter in the Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2020. The Department of Government faculty approved the proposal, on May 31, 2016 and March 28, 2017; the College Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee approved it on April 19, 2017, and the Dean and the College faculty approved the it on June 5, 2017. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the proposal on October 17, 2017, and forwarded it to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Provost on behalf of the President.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by October 29, 2017.
Llan W. Oriedaren
Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Distributed through the Faculty Council Wiki site https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home on October 23, 2017.

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GOVERNMENT DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020 

TYPE OF CHANGE: $\boxtimes$ Academic Change
$\square$ Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

## PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION: $\quad \boxtimes$ Exclusive $\square$ General $\square$ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program?
- Is this program being deleted?
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus?
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?
Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$
Yes $\square$
Yos $\square$
Yes $\square$
Yos $\square$
Yes $\square$


## 2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

As part of our curriculum reform effort, the Dept. of Government established a Curriculum Reform Committee in January 2016. The Curriculum Reform Committee met with students and faculty throughout spring semester of 2016 to discuss a variety of reform ideas. Some of those ideas, including the expansion of our professional internship program and the creation of a pre-law certificate, are still under discussion, but two proposals have already been approved by the Dept. as a whole.

The first of these proposals would create an undergraduate field in research methods. Methods is not currently an undergraduate field, although it is a graduate one, and most methods courses are listed in the Political Theory field, which makes no logical sense. Creating a methods field would separate the methods courses from the political theory field, with which they have little in common, and would make it easier for students to understand which courses count toward the methods of inquiry track discussed below. It would also enable students who opt for the traditional GOV major to use methods courses to satisfy the requirement that they take courses in three fields. This might encourage more students to take methods courses, which are a growing and important part of the discipline.

The second of these proposals would create an optional system of four tracks. Each of these tracks, except for the research methods track, would combine two current undergraduate GOV fields:

Political and Legal Thought (Political Theory and Public Law)
U.S. Politics and Policy (American Government and Public Policy)

World Politics (Comparative Government and International Relations)
Methods of Inquiry (Research Methods)
Students who opted to do a GOV track would have to take twelve hours of courses in that track. Upper as well as lower division courses other than GOV 310 and 312 would count toward the hours in a track. Students who preferred not to do a track, however, could satisfy the requirements of the major in the traditional manner, by taking at least one course in three out of the seven GOV undergraduate fields.

The aim of the optional track system is to provide GOV students with more specialized training and expertise. We believe that the tracks will provide helpful guidance to students and give them a more coherent plan of study. In addition, the tracks will map on to specific substantive interests, research paths, and potential careers, providing students with skills and knowledge that will be an asset to them personally and professionally. Our faculty and the undergraduate advising staff will encourage students to choose tracks appropriate for their academic and professional interests. For example, we will encourage students to take the World Politics track if they are interested in international affairs or careers in the foreign service,

Third World development, or international commerce. The political and legal thought track, meanwhile, would be appropriate for students interested in law school, human rights advocacy, and ethics

## 3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

$\square$ Courses in other colleges
$\square$ Course in the core curriculum

Change in admission requirements (external or internal)Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges
$\square$ Change in course sequencing for an existing program
$\boxtimes$ Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)
$\boxtimes$ Flags

Courses that have to be added to the inventory
4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:
a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools?

YesNo $\boxtimes$
If yes, then how would you do so?
b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college?

YesNo $\boxtimes$ If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college?

YesNo $\boxtimes$ If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges?
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
If $4 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{c}$, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:
If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?
Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:
e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:
If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:
f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419\&format=doc
If yes, explain:
5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: May 31, 2016
Approved by Department of Government faculty

March 28, 2017
College approval date: April 19, 2017
Dean approval date: June 5, 2017 Approved by Dean Randy Diehl and the COLA Faculty

## PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

## GOVERNMENT

## Major

Thirty [30] semester hours of government, at least eighteen [18] of which must be upper-division.[, ineluding]
Students may satisfy the requirements of the major by taking one of the following two sequences:
I. At least one upper-division course from each of three of the [six] seven fields into which the department's work is divided:
(1) political theory
(2) American government and politics
(3) public and comparative law
(4) public policy
(5) comparative politics
(6) international relations
(7) research methods

## II. At least twelve hours in one of four tracks:

(1) political and legal thought
(2) U.S. politics and policy
(3) world politics
(4) methods of inquiry

The political and legal thought track includes courses in fields 1 and 3; the U.S. politics and policy track includes courses in fields 2 and 4; the world politics track includes courses in fields 5 and 6; and the methods of inquiry track includes courses in field 7.

Lower division hours other than GOV 310L, 312L and 312P may be used to satisfy the required twelve hours in a track.

Government majors must also take at least one three-hour research seminar or internship course in Government.
All Government courses that satisfy the Independent Inquiry Flag count as Government research seminars.
Government internship courses include Government 362L, Government Research Internship; Government 662 L, Government Research Internship-DC; Government 371N, Administrative Internship; GOV 372N, Campaigns and Elections Internship; GOV 373N, Legislative Internship; and GOV 374N, Political Internship.

Government majors must also complete at least three semester hours in a tools course, chosen from Government 339L, Research Methods in Government; Government 341M, Decision Theory; Government 342N, Public Choice ; and Government 350K, Statistical Analysis in Political Science.

Students may choose to satisfy the tools course requirement by completing one of the following nongovernment course options; these courses may not be counted toward the semester hours and grade point average required for the major.

- Three semester hours of statistics chosen from Economics 329; Educational Psychology 371; [Mathematies 316;] Psychology 418; Social Work 318; Sociology 317L; Statistics 309; Statistics and Data Sciences 301, 302, 304, 305, 306
- Three semester hours of logic, chosen from Philosophy 312, 313, 313K, 313Q; Tutorial Course 310 (for Plan II students)
- Six semester hours of upper-division coursework in one foreign language, excluding courses conducted in English

All government majors must earn a grade of at least $C$ - in each course counted toward fulfillment of the major requirements. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in courses taken at the University and counted toward the major is also required.

No more than six hours of internship coursework may be counted toward the major, including transfer credit earned in internship courses at other institutions of higher education.

No student may register for more than nine semester hours of government in one semester without the consent of an undergraduate adviser in the Department of Government.

