Executive Committee  
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences  
Report to the Riverside Division

Proposal for a Major in Political Science/International Affairs

Background and Justification for the Proposed Major

It has become routine to observe that international affairs impinge more and more directly on our daily lives. US workers face increased competition from abroad and respond by lobbying for protection against Japanese steel imports. Environmentalists concerned about lax enforcement of Mexican environmental laws enter the political fray against NAFTA. Americans ponder the moral issues involved in bombing Serbia on behalf of the Kosovo Albanians, and wonder if it was worth the risk to our pilots. These and many other international issues are on the front pages daily and shape the political debate at all levels of government.

For the student interested in such issues at UCR, there is currently no major to serve as a home base. The proposed major in Political Science/International Affairs would enable students with a special interest in international relations and comparative politics to deepen their course of study beyond what is now currently available. Based within the Political Science Department, it would require an intense concentration on the international relations and comparative politics offerings from the department, as well as related courses from other departments such as Economics, History, Anthropology and Sociology.

The proposed new major responds to both an increasing student interest in international affairs at UCR and an increasing faculty capacity to meet this demand in the department of Political Science. UCR is a diverse campus and will remain so as it grows in the near future. Many students at UCR have personal ties to East Asia and Latin America, and hence have a natural interest in international affairs. To meet this demand, the Political Science Department has recently hired specialists in international relations (A. Kydd and J. Allison) and comparative politics (M. Lichbach and J. Hiskey), and plans to continue hiring in these areas in the years to come. We now have a basis of expertise and course offerings that allows for the creation of a new major to satisfy students who wish to concentrate in international affairs.

Faculty and Curriculum

Primary faculty for the major will be from the Political Science Department. These include:

    Juliann Allison (environmental politics and international political economy)  
    Shaun Bowler (comparative politics, western Europe and the European Union)
Jonathan Hiskey (Latin American politics, Mexico)
Andrew Kydd (international security, war and conflict resolution)
Mark Lichbach (domestic conflict, civil war and revolution)
David Pion-Berlin (Latin American politics, civil-military relations)

In addition, many other departments offer courses of interest to students of international affairs. Below is a list of related courses that would satisfy distribution requirements for the major.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact is anticipated for the new major. The major will be run out of the Political Science department, as are the Political Science/Administrative Studies and Political Science/Law and Society majors.

POLITICAL SCIENCE/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR

The major requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/International Affairs are as follows:

Lower-Division Requirements (8 units)
The following are required:
  POSC 15 Introduction to Comparative Politics or
  POSC 16 Structure and Process in Comparative Politics or
  POSC 17 Politics of the Underdeveloped World
  POSC 20 Introduction to International Relations

Upper-Division Requirements

a) International Relations (16 units)
Four courses from:
  POSC 123  Conflict Resolution
  POSC 124  International Relations
  POSC 125  U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II
  POSC 126  The Politics of International Trade, Finance and Development
  POSC 127  International Environmental Politics
  POSC 128  Comparative Foreign Policy
  POSC 129  The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
  POSC 130  Politics and Economics of the Pacific Rim
  POSC 163  Latin America and the United States

b) Comparative Politics (16 units)
Four courses from:
  POSC 151  British Government and Politics
  POSC 152  Politics of the Middle East
  POSC 153  Soviet Foreign Policy in Transition
POSC 154  The Government and Politics of the European Community
POSC 155  Government and Politics in Western Europe
POSC 156  Jewish Politics
POSC 157  Modern Dictatorships
POSC 158  Politics of Mexico
POSC 160A  Political Economy: Underdevelopment
POSC 150B  Political Economy: The Nation State and Capitalism
POSC 161  The Politics of Brazil
POSC 162  Latin American Comparative Political Systems
POSC 165A  Political Protest & Social Movements
POSC 165B  Political Violence and Social Revolution

c) General Political Science Courses  (16 units)
Four other political science courses, in any subfield.

d) Other Departments (16 units)
In addition, students must take 4 courses from related departments. Permitted courses by department are:

Anthropology:
   ANTH 161 Indigenous People and the State in Latin America
   ANTH 163 Transnational and Global Communities
   ANTH 164 Gender and Development in Latin America
   ANTH 186 People and the Environment in Latin America

Comparative Ancient Civilizations
   CPAC 140 Contact, Conflict, and War in Ancient Civilizations

Economics:
   ECON 113 The Political Economy of Latin America
   ECON 171 International Finance
   ECON 175 Comparative Analysis of Economic Systems
   ECON 178 International Trade
   ECON 181 Economic Development: Theory and Policy
   ECON 182 Trade, Globalization, and Development
   ECON 185 Economic Development in Latin America

History:
   HISA 117B United States, 1945 to the Present
   HISA 164B The United States and Latin America Since 1930
   HISE 141 Europe, 1914-1945
   HISE 142 Europe Since 1945
   HISE 145 World War I
   HISE 146 The Second World War
HISE 174 Russia Since 1917
HIST 182 Modern China

Sociology:
   SOC 135 Conflict
   SOC 137 Population
   SOC 161 Immigration and Society

Students may petition for permission to count a specific course not on this list.

In addition, Political Science/International Affairs majors are strongly encouraged to learn a language other than English. The University offers language instruction in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish.

Approved by Political Science Dept: June 14, 1999
Approved by Dean Patricia O’Brien, CHASS: 3/15/00
Approved by Executive Committee, CHASS: 4/5/00
Approved by CHASS Faculty: 4/5/00
Approved by Committee on Educational Policy: 5/2/00