To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Political Science/Public Service Major

**PRESENT:**

**Political Science/Public Policy Major**
The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Political Science/Public Service are as follows. Note that the prerequisite for POSC 198-I is a GPA of 2.70 or better.

1. Lower-division requirements (five courses [at least 20 units])
   a) POSC 010 or POSC 010H
   b) One course from POSC 005 or POSC 005H or POSC 007, POSC 015 or POSC 017, POSC 020 or POSC 020H
   c) ECON 003
   d) SOC 004
   e) SOC 005 or STAT 040

2. Upper-division requirements (11 courses [at least 44 units])
   a) Political Science distribution: choose one course from each group
      (1) Comparative Government and Politics
          Group: POSC 120, POSC 131, POSC 151, POSC 152, POSC 153, POSC 154, POSC 155, POSC 156, POSC 157, POSC 159, POSC 160, POSC 162/LNST 142, POSC 164, POSC 164S
      (1) Comparative Government and Politics
          Group: POSC 120, POSC 131, POSC 133

**PROPOSED:**

No Change

No Change

Students in the major must complete two of the lower-division Political Science courses with a grade of “C” or better in order to take upper-division political science courses.
(2) International Relations and Foreign Policy Group: POSC 124, or POSC 124S, POSC 125, POSC 126, POSC 127, POSC 128, POSC 129, POSC 130, POSC 133, POSC 135, POSC 147, POSC 150, POSC 169


b) Public Service requirement

(1) POSC 181, POSC 183

(2) Eight (8) units from POSC 198G and POSC 198-I (prerequisite: GPA of 2.70 or better)

(3) An additional four courses from POSC 118, POSC 170, POSC 171, POSC 172/URST 172, POSC 182, POSC 186

No Change

JUSTIFICATION:

The political science department is proposing that students in the major would have to pass two lower-division political science courses with a grade of “C” or higher before moving on to any upper-division courses. This would apply to majors only. Any two lower-division courses would suffice. We felt that a 2 course requirement is a good compromise between 1 or say 3 - 4. We could consider stiffening the requirements to 3 or 4 lower-division courses (as other social science disciplines do) after seeing the results of this policy.

Information: Last quarter 234 students failed to get a grade of “C” or higher in lower-division courses. They represented 20% of all those enrolled in lower-division courses. We would expect some decline in enrollment in upper division courses in the future, as the new requirement takes effect. But of course, some % of students will improve their performance, so we don’t expect any dramatic declines. (This quarter 27% of the students enrolled in upper division courses are non-majors).

We would not anticipate a large increase in enrollments in the lower-division courses because no one would be grandfathered into this system. It would just pertain to incoming freshman once the catalog change has been made.
Underlined courses are new approved courses that are being added to their respective areas.

The strikeout course, POSC 133, is being deleted from the International Relations Group and being placed into the Comparative Government Group – it is a comparative course not international relations.

I have verified that all courses listed in this curriculum change are active via the Committee on Courses reports from 12/1/09 to 2/15/11. Cherrie Veriato.

**APPROVALS:**

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Political Science: 2/2/11
Approved by Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 4/6/11
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 4/27/11