EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 28, 2013

To be adopted: Proposed Changes to Economics/Law and Society Major

Present: Proposed:

Major Requirements
The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Economics/Law and Society are as follows:

1. Economics requirements (11 courses [at least 44 units])
   a) ECON 002, ECON 003
   b) ECON 119
   c) ECON 104A, ECON 104B, ECON 105A
   d) Five additional upper-division courses in Economics worth 4 or 5 units each, including at least two that have either ECON 104A or ECON 105A or ECON 107 as a prerequisite. ECON 107 may be chosen as an advanced elective. Two 2-unit courses can replace one 4- or 5-unit elective course.
   Note Up to 4 units of internship credit may be counted toward the upper-division elective courses in Economics.

2. Law and Society requirements (36 units)
   a) PHIL 007 or PHIL 007H
   b) LWSO 100
   c) One course chosen from ECON 111, POSC 114, PSYC 012, SOC 004 (or equivalent course in research methods)
   d) Three courses chosen from ANTH 127, ECON 119, HISE 153, PHIL 165, POSC 167, PSYC 175, SOC 159,
   e) Two courses chosen from ENSC 174, HISA 120A, HISA 120B, HISE 123, LWSO 175 (E-Z), PHIL 164, POSC 111, POSC 166, POSC 168, POSC 186, SOC 147, SOC 149, SOC 180
   f) LWSO 193, Senior Seminar

Major Requirements
The Law and Society major is open to undergraduate students with junior standing who have completed LWSO 100 with a grade of C or higher. The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Economics/Law and Society are as follows:

1. [no change]
Note: For sections 2.d) and 2.e) combined, not more than two courses may be taken from the same department. In filling the dual requirements of the major, students may not count more than two courses toward both parts of their total requirements. (This limitation applies to specified Economics requirements and Law and Society requirements.)

JUSTIFICATION:

The reason for the Law and Society Committee’s recommendation that students must attain a minimum grade of 2.00 in LWSO 100 in order to enroll in the Law and Society Major, is a full consensus among us that the current criterion for admission into the major—academic good standing in CHASS, i.e., a minimum 2.0 g.p.a.—is too low, and that it allows enrollment in the major of a population of weak students that is sufficiently large to affect adversely the level of instruction, teaching, and learning in our upper-division classes. Lowering the average experience in a classroom, for the instructors and for the students, inevitably means frustrating the good or excellent students in their endeavor to take advantage of the major as a springboard to sophisticated knowledge, and advanced learning, both in the rest of their college careers and beyond. In the case of this major in particular, the problem is aggravated by an additional factor. Our campus is currently seriously stretched for resources, and, with a huge number of participating students, and the frequent over-enrollment in the required courses, the program is strained, potentially devalued, and difficult to complete, not for reasons of student performance, but because of luck—or otherwise—in getting into the needed classes. In particular, the excess enrollment has continuously caused us problems in offering what should be the capstone of the major—the senior seminar, LWSO 193. We anticipate that the proposed minimum grade requirement will ameliorate those problems, especially the overcrowding of the senior seminar.

APPROVALS:

Effective: Fall 2013
Approved by the Law and Society Committee: November 2012
Approved by the faculty of the Department of Economics: 3/26/13
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 4/10/13
Approved by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee: 4/29/13
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 5/15/13