To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Law and Society Major

PRESENT:

The Law and Society major offers undergraduates an interdisciplinary liberal arts approach to the study of legal and law-like relationships and institutions. The program combines the perspectives of various disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The multidisciplinary approach introduces students to a wider range of views about law than is generally possible within a single department, provides a coherent and rigorous program of courses organized around the theme of law and law-like relationships, and allows students to develop critical thinking about law and social institutions.

For students not planning to pursue graduate studies, this program offers a means of understanding some complex relationships between social institutions. For those who plan to pursue graduate studies, the breadth of coursework should provide a sound basis for graduate studies in areas related to law: history, philosophy, political science, and sociology, among others. And for students who choose to pursue the study of law in a professional school of law, the curriculum can offer a sound background.

Students may select Law and Society as a major with the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

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

PROPOSED:

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 offers an interdisciplinary liberal arts approach to the study of legal and law-like relationships and institutions. The program combines the perspectives of various disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The multidisciplinary approach introduces students to a wider range of views about law than is generally possible within a single department, provides a coherent and rigorous program of courses organized around the theme of law and law-like relationships, and allows students to develop critical thinking about law and social institutions.

For students not planning to pursue graduate studies, this program offers a means of understanding some complex relationships between social institutions. For those who plan to pursue graduate studies, the breadth of coursework should provide a sound basis for graduate studies in areas related to law: history, philosophy, political science, and sociology, among others. And for students who choose to pursue the study of law in a professional school of law, the curriculum can offer a sound background.

Students may select Law and Society as a major with the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Major Requirements
The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Law and Society are as follows:
1. Specified requirements of the cooperating department (See the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology.)

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 186, SOC 147, SOC 149, SOC 180
   f) LWSO 193, Senior Seminar

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 (specified departmental 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 History: January 10, 2013
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 03/27/13
Approved by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee: 4/29/13
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: