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

PRESENT:

The Philosophy/Law and Society major offers students a means of understanding complex relationships between social institutions and provides a strong basis for graduate studies in areas related to law and philosophy. The Philosophy/Law and Society curriculum is sound background for students planning on pursuing the study of law.

Philosophy/Law and Society Major

Major requirements for a B.A. degree in Philosophy/Law and Society are as follows:

1. Philosophy requirements (36 units)
   a) PHIL 007 or PHIL 007H
   b) Three courses in the history of philosophy (two of which must be upper-division): PHIL 030 (E-Z), PHIL 120 (E-Z), PHIL 121 (E-Z), PHIL 122 (E-Z)
   c) Five courses in moral and political philosophy: PHIL 108, PHIL 116, PHIL 117, PHIL 119, PHIL 153, and PHIL 161 through PHIL 169 (E-Z)

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

Proposed:

The Philosophy/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 students a means of understanding complex relationships between social institutions and provides a strong basis for graduate studies in areas related to law and philosophy. The Philosophy/Law and Society curriculum is sound background for students planning on pursuing the study of law.

Philosophy/Law and Society Major

Major requirements for a B.A. degree in Philosophy/Law and Society are as follows:

1. Philosophy requirements (36 units)
   a) PHIL 007 or PHIL 007H
   b) Three courses in the history of philosophy (two of which must be upper-division): PHIL 030 (E-Z), PHIL 120 (E-Z), PHIL 121 (E-Z), PHIL 122 (E-Z)
   c) Five courses in moral and political philosophy: PHIL 108, PHIL 116, PHIL 117, PHIL 119, PHIL 153, and PHIL 161 through PHIL 169 (E-Z)

2. Law and Society requirements (36 units)
   a) PHIL 007 or PHIL 007H
   b) LWSO 100 (with a grade of “C” or better)
   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

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 (Philosophy Department requirements and Law and Society requirements). The department has its own Philosophy/Law and Society undergraduate advisor, and each student is urged to consult the advisor in preparing a course of study each quarter while at UCR.
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: November 2012
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