To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Political Science/Law and Society Major

Present: Major
The Political Science/Law and Society major combines the breadth of a political science major with a particular focus on the theme of law and law-like relationships. The major provides a multidisciplinary approach to the study of legal and law-like institutions and relationships and focuses on relationships that have formed the core of political science: the emergence and development of law, the relationship between law and values, and the growth of the power of the state, among others. The courses provide a variety of perspectives on this theme, and the range of courses should be of particular benefit to those who plan to attend law school.

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

1. Political Science requirements (60 units)
   All major requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

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,

Proposed: Major
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 combines the breadth of a political science major with a particular focus on the theme of law and law-like relationships. The major provides a multidisciplinary approach to the study of legal and law-like institutions and relationships and focuses on relationships that have formed the core of political science: the emergence and development of law, the relationship between law and values, and the growth of the power of the state, among others. The courses provide a variety of perspectives on this theme, and the range of courses should be of particular benefit to those who plan to attend law school.

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

1. Political Science requirements (60 units)
   All major requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

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,
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 (Political Science 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: November 2012
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: 04/10/13
Approved by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee: 4/29/13
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 5/15/13