

GRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 4/4/2024

From: Rebecca A Reid, Department of Political Science and Public Admin

Rebecca Reid

Through: Gaspare Genna, Department of Political Science and Public Admin

Genna

Through: Dean Anadeli Bencomo, College

To: Selfa A. Chew-Meléndez, College Curriculum Committee
Martine Ceberio, Graduate Council

Proposal Title: MA POLS Catalogue Changes

Our proposal includes two parts: a) the addition of POLS 5313 to MA POLS degree plans (both thesis and final paper), and b) adding language to applicant letter of recommendation requirement.

A) Add course POLS 5313: Political Communication to the MA in Political Science degree plan, both the thesis and final paper options. POLS 5313 was created in 1999 but has not been included in the degree plans. We seek to remedy this oversight.

B) We seek to add "current or" to the existing requirement for letters of recommendation to enhance clarity.

Desired Language:

3. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from current or former professors in either the bachelor's degree program or previous graduate programs.

UTEP's location at the intersection of political systems, nationalities, and cultures provides many fascinating and unique opportunities to study American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Our master's degree is useful for many different career paths. UTEP graduates have gone on to jobs in government service, teaching, business, and non-profit organizations. Some of our MA graduates have subsequently completed doctoral programs and law school. We offer two degree plans in the MA program:

1. **Degree Plan Thesis Option** consists of 30 credit hours, including six (6) thesis credit hours, and is designed for students who would like to develop in-depth research expertise in a specialized area; and
2. **Degree Plan Non-Thesis Option** requires 36 credit hours, including a final paper project, and is designed for students who would like to develop broad knowledge in Political Science.

Spring Semester Admission: The deadline to apply for Spring admission into the MA Political Science program is November 15th. We encourage early applications for international student applicants and applicants seeking teaching assistantship positions, where the early admission deadline is September 30th.

Fall Semester Admission: The deadline to apply for Fall admission into the MA Political Science program is July 15th. We encourage early applications for international student applicants and applicants seeking teaching assistantship positions, where the early admission deadline is March 31st.

Deleted: Students in our MA program can apply for teaching and research assistantships. The early deadline to apply for funding assistantship consideration is March 31 for Fall admission, and November 15 for Spring admission.¶

Admission Requirements

Admission is based on the entire record of the applicant and not a single criterion.

1. Completed application (available online) for the Graduate School.
2. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S. or proof of equivalent education at a foreign institution in Political Science, or a related area. Transcripts are required from the bachelor's degree and any other graduate or professional degree programs, including law school.
3. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from current or former professors in either the bachelor's degree program or previous graduate programs.
4. A statement of purpose outlining one's interest in the program and career objectives. If the applicant's undergraduate GPA is below 3.0, any extenuating circumstances must be explained.
5. Applicants from countries where English is not the first language are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the graduate school website for required scores.
6. Other evidence of background and experience that might be available.

Additional Policies

1. Independent studies are limited to three (3) hours of graduate coursework, taken with the permission of the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies and justified with a proposal from the student outlining the objectives of the project by the end of the drop/add period.
2. No student can register for a graduate course in the Department of Political Science without the advice and approval of the Director of Graduate studies. This applies to the initial registration, and also to all subsequent enrollments.
3. Satisfactory performance in the MA program is defined as maintaining a 3.0 GPA. A grade of B or better must be earned in all the mandatory courses required in both degree plans, including:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I	3
POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods	3
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II	3
Course List		

Degree Plan

Expand All Sections

Thesis Option

Non-Thesis Option

Degree Plan Changes from Catalog Form

Degree Plan

Expand All Sections

Thesis Option

Required Credits: 30

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Political Science (All courses require a grade of C or better)		
Required Courses:		
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I ^B	3
Seminar:		
POLS 5301 or POLS 5302	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods ^B Sem Quant Research Methods II	3
Political Science Subfields:		
Select one course from three of the four subfields below:		9
American Institutions and Processes:		
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5313	Seminar in Political Communication	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
POLS 5320	Seminar In Public Law	
POLS 5364	Seminar-Public Policy Analysis	
Comparative Politics:		
POLS 5334	Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.	
POLS 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
POLS 5345	Comparative Electoral Systems	
POLS 5346	Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt	
POLS 5348	Sem in Politics of Latin Amer	
POLS 5370	Field Analysis Seminar	
International Politics:		
POLS 5330	Seminar-International Politics	
POLS 5331	Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law	
POLS 5332	Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making	

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 5338	Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.	
POLS 5347	Sem in International Security	
POLS 5368	Seminar in Conflict Analysis	
Political Science Electives:		
Select nine hours from the following:		9
POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods	
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II	
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5313	Seminar in Political Communication	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
POLS 5320	Seminar In Public Law	
POLS 5330	Seminar-International Politics	
POLS 5331	Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law	
POLS 5332	Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making	
POLS 5334	Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.	
POLS 5338	Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.	
POLS 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
POLS 5343	Seminar in Border Politics	
POLS 5345	Comparative Electoral Systems	
POLS 5346	Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt	
POLS 5347	Sem in International Security	
POLS 5348	Sem in Politics of Latin Amer	
POLS 5349	Seminar in Political Thought	
POLS 5364	Seminar-Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 5368	Seminar in Conflict Analysis	
POLS 5370	Field Analysis Seminar	
POLS 5380	Selected Problems-Government	
POLS 5393	Final Paper Project	
Thesis:		
POLS 5398 & POLS 5399	Thesis and Thesis	6
Total Hours		30
Course List		

B

Course requires a grade of B or better.

Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Political Science (All courses require a grade of C or better)		
Required Courses:		
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I	3
Seminar		
POLS 5301 or POLS 5302	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods Sem Quant Research Methods II	3
Political Science Subfields:		
POLS 5393	Final Paper Project	3
Select 12 hours, with at least one course each in the categories of American Institutions and Processes, Comparative Politics, or International Politics, from the following:		12
American Institutions and Processes:		
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5313	Sem in Political Communication	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
POLS 5320	Seminar In Public Law	
POLS 5364	Seminar-Public Policy Analysis	
Comparative Politics:		
POLS 5334	Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.	
POLS 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
POLS 5345	Comparative Electoral Systems	
POLS 5346	Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt	
POLS 5348	Sem in Politics of Latin Amer	
POLS 5370	Field Analysis Seminar	
International Politics:		
POLS 5330	Seminar-International Politics	
POLS 5331	Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law	
POLS 5332	Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making	
POLS 5338	Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.	
POLS 5347	Sem in International Security	
POLS 5368	Seminar in Conflict Analysis	
Political Science Electives:		
Select 15 hours from the following:		15
POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods	

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II	
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5313	Sem in Political Communication	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
POLS 5320	Seminar In Public Law	
POLS 5330	Seminar-International Politics	
POLS 5331	Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law	
POLS 5332	Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making	
POLS 5334	Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.	
POLS 5338	Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.	
POLS 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
POLS 5343	Seminar in Border Politics	
POLS 5345	Comparative Electoral Systems	
POLS 5346	Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt	
POLS 5347	Sem in International Security	
POLS 5348	Sem in Politics of Latin Amer	
POLS 5349	Seminar in Political Thought	
POLS 5364	Seminar-Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 5368	Seminar in Conflict Analysis	
POLS 5370	Field Analysis Seminar	
POLS 5380	Selected Problems-Government	
Total Hours		36
Course List		

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: MA POLS Catalogue Changes

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Political Science and Public Administration

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Gaspare Genna

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

Gaspare M.
Genna

Digitally signed by Gaspare M. Genna
DN: cn=Gaspare M. Genna, o=The University of
Texas at El Paso, ou=Political Science and Public
Administration, email=ggenna@utep.edu, c=US
Date: 2024.08.21 15:55:43 -06'00'

8/21/2024

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa A. Chew-Meléndez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Dean Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date