



**UNC**  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

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THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF  
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**EVELYNE HUBER**

*Morehead Alumni Distinguished Professor and Chair*

To: Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences and the General College  
From: Evelyne Huber, Chair  
Re: Change to the Political Science Major

I am pleased to submit this request to make two changes to the requirements of the Political Science major. First, we propose adding a research methods requirement to the major. Second, we propose removing a course from the list of courses that can be used to fulfill the comparative politics requirement. I provide the rationale behind both of these changes below.

The first change is to add a research methods requirement to the major. The departmental external review conducted during the 2014-15 academic year recommended that a methods requirement be incorporated in the undergraduate major in Political Science. Political methodology has become an integral component of a political science education, and most political science majors at our peer institutions require a course in methods. Additionally, this change would put us in line with most of the disciplinary majors in the Division of Social Sciences, which require a methods course.

To this end, we propose that Political Science majors be required to take one course in research methods in addition to the current requirements for the major. This requirement could be fulfilled through the completion of a methods course in Political Science or in a related discipline. We have contacted the Directors of Undergraduate Studies in all of the departments with courses listed below, and all of them would have no problem allowing their departmental course(s) to fulfill this Political Science major requirement.

We will include the following note about this major requirement in the catalog: "Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take a research methods course in political science. However, students with a second major in a related discipline may find it beneficial to fulfill this requirement with one of the alternative courses."

Pending approval, we propose that students would be able to use the following courses to fulfill the research methods requirement:

- POLI 209: Analyzing Public Opinion
- POLI 281: Quantitative Research in Political Science
- POLI 285: Research Methods and Experiments
- POLI 287: Strategy and International Relations

- POLI 288: Strategy and Politics
- POLI 417: Advanced Political Psychology
- POLI 488: Advanced Game Theory

*Per department, add POLI 691H Honors Seminar in Research Design (10/27/2016).*

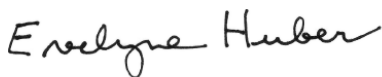
- ECON 400: Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics
- GEOG 391: Quantitative Methods in Geography
- GEOG 392: Research Methods in Geography
- PHIL 140: Knowledge and Society
- PHIL 154: Philosophy of Social Science
- PHIL 335: Theory of Knowledge
- PHIL 357: Induction, Probability, and Confirmation
- PLCY 460: Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy
- PSYC 270: Laboratory Research in Psychology
- SOCI 251: Measurement and Data Collection
- SOCI 252: Data Analysis in Sociological Research

Regarding the second change, HIST 257 will no longer be cross-listed with Political Science, so POLI 257 will no longer be offered. To that end, we would like to drop the following course from the list of courses that can be used to fulfill the comparative politics requirement in the major:

- POLI 257: Politics, Society, and Culture in Postwar Germany

I am including with this memo a copy of the relevant catalog text (with changes tracked), updated to reflect this new addition to the curriculum. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this request. Thank you for your assistance with this process.

Sincerely,



Evelyne Huber  
Chair

# Department of Political Science

- Use this document to submit curriculum changes for the 2017-2018 academic year.

## Political Science Major, B.A.

### Core Requirements

- ~~Eight courses (24 credit hours) offered by the department at the 100 level or above, including the following courses~~Nine courses, including the following courses and including at least one 400-level political science (POLI) course:
  - POLI 100
  - POLI 150
  - ~~At least one~~ course in comparative politics chosen from POLI 130, 131, 232, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, ~~257~~
  - ~~At least one~~ course in political theory chosen from POLI 265, 270, 271, 272, 274, 276, 280, 470, 471, 472, 475
  - One course in research methods chosen from POLI 209, 281, 285, 287, 288, 417, 488; 691H; ECON 400; GEOG 391, 392; PHIL 140, 154, 335, 357; PLCY 460; PSYC 270; SOCI 251, 252<sup>1</sup>
  - Four political science (POLI) electives at the 100 level or above<sup>2 3</sup>
- ~~At least one 400-level course~~

### Additional Requirements

- ECON 101

~~Students must earn a grade of C or better in six of the eight political science courses used to satisfy the core requirements of the major. This grade requirement does not apply to ECON 101. First-year seminars do not count toward the political science major. Whenever possible, students~~

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<sup>1</sup> Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take a research methods course in political science. However, students with a second major in a related discipline may find it beneficial to fulfill this requirement with one of the alternative courses.

<sup>2</sup> First-year seminars do not count toward the political science major.

<sup>3</sup> Whenever possible, students should take an introductory course in a subfield (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory) before taking more advanced courses in the subfield.

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