



THE FACULTY SENATE

September 20, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Robert M. Gates
SUBJECT: Approval of University Curriculum Committee Item (FS.23.26)

At its regular meeting on September 12, 2005, the Faculty Senate approved the following curriculum item from the University Curriculum Committee and submits it for your approval. Attached is a copy of the material sent to our Senators.

Special Consideration

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science
Certificate in Foundations of Political Theory

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please inform me of your action on this matter.

John L. Fike
2005-2006 Speaker

Attachment

cc: Dr. David Prior
Dr. Karan Watson
Dr. Paul Meyer
Ms. Linda Lacey
Dr. Charles Johnson

*db updated
form*

Approved:

Robert M. Gates, President

10-4-05
Date

Certificate in **Foundations of Political Theory**

This certificate is a means of enhancing undergraduate education through a focused combination of courses, independent study, and program participation. Administered by the Political Science Department, the program is open to all Texas A&M University undergraduates, regardless of major.

If you are interested in gaining background for post-graduate studies in law, social science, history, or political theory, or for a fulfilling career that builds on your analytical and expressive skills, this certificate program may be for you.

The program requires 18 hours of course work, including an introductory course in political theory and a capstone senior research course. It also requires frequent participation in program activities such as lectures and conferences. Participants in the certificate program may choose one of two areas of concentration: history of political theory, or analytic political theory.

Interested students are encouraged to enroll in the program as freshmen to avoid having to add extra hours to the degree program. Students are encouraged to meet with the undergraduate advisor as early as possible to plan their courses of study and to make sure that they have completed the appropriate prerequisite courses.

Successful completion of the program will be indicated on the student's transcript. Each student will also receive a program certificate upon graduation from Texas A&M.

Summary of the Requirements for the Certificate

- 18 credits -- Introduction to Political Theory (POLS 303) + 4 upper division courses, including two required and two elective courses, from one of the lists below + a capstone course (POLS 481)
- participation in program activities, documented at least four times
- foreign language training recommended but not required

Course Requirements

1. Courses for the History of Political Theory Concentration (12 hrs.; starred courses are **required**):

*POLS 349 (Early Political Thought)

*POLS 350 (Modern Political Thought)

POLS 359 (American Political Thought)

POLS 364 (Global Political Thought)

POLS 455 (Traditions of Political Theory)

POLS 461 (Jurisprudence)

HIST 420 (European Intellectual History from the Enlightenment to 1900)

HIST 421 (European Intellectual History in the Twentieth Century)

COMM 301 (Rhetoric in Western Thought)

COMM 327 (American Oratory)

ENGL 353 (History of Rhetoric)

PHIL 332 (Social and Political Philosophy)

PHIL 410 (Classical Philosophy)

PHIL 411 (Medieval Philosophy)
PHIL 413 (Modern Philosophy)
PHIL 414 (Nineteenth Century Philosophy)
PHIL 415 (American Philosophy)
ENGL 308 (History of Literary Criticism)

Variable topics courses, such as POLS306, POLS485, POLS489, POLS497, and similar courses in other disciplines may qualify, when focused specifically on the history of political theory or topics of significant substance or importance. Students who plan to apply such a course toward the above requirements should first determine, by consulting with an Undergraduate Advisor in the Political Science Department, that the course would be accepted toward the Certificate.

2. Courses for the Analytic Political Theory Concentration (12 hrs.; starred courses are required):

*POLS 369 (Theories of Democracy)
*POLS 454 (Contemporary Political Ideas)

POLS 364 (Global Political Thought)
POLS 353 (Constitutional Rights and Liberties)
POLS 359 (American Political Thought)
POLS 455 (Traditions of Political Theory)
POLS 462 (Women and the Law)
HIST 420 (European Intellectual History from the Enlightenment to 1900)
HIST 421 (European Intellectual History in the Twentieth Century)
COMM 301 (Rhetoric in Western Thought)
COMM 327 (American Oratory)
ENGL 354 (Modern Rhetorical Theory)
ENGL 401 (Critical Theory and Practice)
PHIL 332 (Social and Political Philosophy)
PHIL 307 (Philosophy of the Social Sciences)
PHIL 419 (Current Continental Philosophy)
SOC 430 (Contemporary Sociological Theory)

Variable topics courses, such as POLS306, POLS485, POLS489, POLS497, and similar courses in other disciplines may qualify, when focused specifically on the analysis of political theory or topics of significant substance or importance. Students who plan to apply such a course toward the above requirements should first determine, by consulting with an Undergraduate Advisor in the Political Science Department, that the course would be accepted toward the Certificate.

Capstone Research Experience (3 credit hours)

The capstone course is POLS481 – Senior Research Seminar. Since POLS481 is a variable content course, the student must be careful to choose a section for which the focus will be an original research paper independently developed by the student that explores historical or analytical political theory. (The student should consult with an academic advisor in Political Science to make certain that a particular section of POLS481 will apply for this certificate program.)

Conference and Lecture Participation Requirement:

Students are required to attend at least four of the lectures and/or conferences offered by the Program in Political Theory. Lectures are offered at least three times per semester, and conferences at least once per year. Students may choose any four of the lectures to fulfill this requirement, but are advised to start early. Certification that a student has attended a lecture requires two steps: (1) signing the sign-up sheet at the lecture site and (2) turning in a one-page, typed summary of the lecture to the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) in the Department of Political Science. The summary must be filed with the UPO within fourteen days after the lecture.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements are identical to those listed under the Bachelor's degree in the Texas A&M University undergraduate catalog.

Although language training is not required for certification, successful completion of some senior research experience topics may depend on appropriate linguistic skills. Students are encouraged to acquire these skills early in their academic careers, and to meet with political theory faculty for advice on these matters.

Students interested in the Certificate should make an appointment with an academic advisor in the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) in the Department of Political Science, Allen Building, Room 2024.

Steps to Receive the Certificate in Foundations of Political Theory

1. Apply for the program as early as your freshman year or first year at Texas A&M University. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Advising in the Department of Political Science.
2. Plan ahead to schedule appropriate classes. You are responsible for acquiring the specific course work. UPO advisors are available to assist you in planning a program for completing Certificate requirements.
3. File for the Certificate during your semester of graduation. Download the document from <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/> or obtain a copy from the UPO, 2024 Allen Building. Submit the completed form to the UPO. You will receive the Certificate in six to eight weeks after graduation.

Political Science Department Advisor:

Dr. Michael Balog, Allen Bldg, Pm 2023, 862-1890

Huval, Lynette

From: Parrish, Paul
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 6:02 PM
To: Patricia Hurley
Subject: Re: Request for approval letters for a certificate proposal from POLS

Dear Pat,

The Department of English approves your inclusion of our courses as outlined in your proposed certificate.

Paul

Paul A. Parrish
Regents Professor and Head
Department of English
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4227
(979) 845-3890
(979) 862-2292 FAX
p-parrish@tamu.edu
<http://www-english.tamu.edu/pers/fac/parrish/>

At 04:22 PM 5/3/05, you wrote:

>Dear Rick, Pepe, Paul, Walter, Robin, and Rogelio:
>
>Attached you will find a proposal for a certificate (one of several
>developed this year) that Political Science is proposing for our
>undergraduate majors. This certificate specifies that students
>pursuing the certificate must choose classes from a list that includes
>one or more courses in your department. I doubt that this would be more
>than 3-4 students additional in the course in any given semester.
>Nonetheless, I must have your departmental approval before POLS can
>send this forward to the College's Undergraduate Instruction Committee.
>
>I have attached a file outlining the proposed certificate requirements.
>If you approve of having our students in these courses, please send me
>a reply to this e-mail. It would be most helpful if you could insert
>your e-mail signature in the response message.
>
>Please let me know as well if you have any questions or concerns.
>
>thanks.
>
>pat
>
>
>
>Patricia A. Hurley
>Professor and Head
>Department of Political Science
>Texas A&M University
>4348 TAMU
>College Station, TX 77843-4348
>Phone: 979-845-8833 Fax: 979-847-8924
><<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu>><<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu>>

Paul A. Parrish
Regents Professor and Head
Department of English

Huval, Lynette

From: Buenger, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 9:59 AM
To: Patricia Hurley
Subject: Re: Request for approval letters for a certificate proposal from POLS

Pat,

This is fine with me. It looks like an interesting program and similar to what I did at Rice.

Let me know if my signature at the bottom is sufficient or Mary Johnson says we can scan in a cursive signature.

Walter

At 04:22 PM 5/3/2005 -0500, you wrote:

Dear Rick, Pepe, Paul, Walter, Robin, and Rogelio:

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Please let me know as well if you have any questions or concerns.

thanks,

pat

Patricia A. Hurley
Professor and Head
Department of Political Science
Texas A&M University
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Phone: 979-845-8833 Fax: 979-847-8924
<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu> <<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu>>

Walter Buenger
Professor & Head
Department of History
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-4236
(979) 845-7170
FAX (979) 862-4314

Huval, Lynette

From: Saenz, Rogelio
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2005 4:52 PM
To: Patricia Hurley
Subject: Re: Request for approval letters for a certificate proposal from POLS

Dear Pat:

I approve.

Rogelio Saenz
Professor and Head
Texas A&M University
Department of Sociology
College Station, TX 77843-4351

Patricia Hurley <PAT_HURLEY@politics.tamu.edu> said:

>
> ----- =_NextPart_001_01C55026.44D59216
> Content-Type: text/plain
>
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> Patricia A. Hurley
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> <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu> <<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/>>

Huval, Lynette

From: Robin Smith [rasmith@aristotle.tamu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 7:53 AM
To: Patricia Hurley
Subject: Re: Request for approval letters for a certificate proposal from POLS

>>>> "Patricia" == Patricia Hurley <PAT_HURLEY@politics.tamu.edu> writes:

Patricia> [1 <multipart/alternative>] [1.1 <text/plain>] Dear
Patricia> Rick, Pepe, Paul, Walter, Robin, and Rogelio:

Patricia> Attached you will find a proposal for a certificate (one
Patricia> of several developed this year) that Political Science
Patricia> is proposing for our undergraduate majors. This
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Patricia> insert your e-mail signature in the response message.

Patricia> Please let me know as well if you have any questions or
Patricia> concerns.

Patricia> thanks,

Patricia> pat

I approve this proposed certificate.

Robin Smith
Professor and Department Head
Department of Philosophy rasmith@tamu.edu
Texas A&M University Voice (979) 845-5696
College Station, TX 77843-4237 FAX (979) 845-0458