

27-131



# THE FACULTY SENATE

July 15, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** President Robert M. Gates  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of University Curriculum Committee Item (FS.23.13)

At its regular meeting on July 11, 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.

- College of Liberal Arts
  - Department of Political Science
    - Certificate in International Relations
    - Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics
    - Certificate in Law, Politics and Society

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

John L. Fike  
2005-2006 Speaker

*from updated  
of updated*

### Attachment

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

Approved:

  
Robert M. Gates, President

4-12-06  
Date



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Political Science

H1

UCC - 6/10/05  
FS - 7/11/05  
Pres - 4/12/06

MEMO

To: Undergraduate Instruction Committee  
College of Liberal Arts

From: Patricia A. Hurley, Professor and Head *PAH*  
Department of Political Science

Date: March 11, 2005

Re: Proposals for three new certificate programs in Political Science

A few years ago, the Department of Political Science developed and began to offer a certificate program in European Union politics. Since then, the program has become quite popular and several students have already received certificates upon graduation. Owing in part to the success of that program, both students and faculty have expressed interest in development of additional certificate programs to give guidance and recognition to in-depth study in other areas of political science.

Attached are proposals for three new certificate programs, covering the topics of International Relations; Comparative Study of National Politics; and Law, Politics, and Society. With the European Union program as a template, the new programs in International Relations and Comparative Study both require course work in addition to an experiential learning component. Each of the three programs requires a capstone course involving a relevant research experience.

These three programs have been endorsed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Head's Advisory Committee, and the faculty of the Department. In addition, we have received approval for including optional outside courses from the department heads of Economics, History, and Sociology (as attached).

On behalf of the department, I am pleased to submit these programs for your consideration.

## Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society

This certificate enhances undergraduate education through a focused combination of courses and individualized research instruction. Administered by the Political Science Department, the program is open to all Texas A&M University undergraduates majoring in political science.

If you are interested in developing an intellectually-rigorous, research-oriented foundation for post-graduate studies focusing on the politics of law, courts, and legal systems or for preparation for law school and the legal profession, this certificate program may be for you.

The program requires 18 hours of course work, including a capstone course involving doctrinal, empirical, or comparative research into important socio-legal questions.

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.

### **Requirements for the Certificate**

Beyond the requirement of POLS481 (the capstone course), course work for the certificate program is divided into three areas: doctrinal, empirical, and interdisciplinary. Courses in each of these areas will provide students with an appreciation and knowledge of the breadth of the law, politics, and society field of study and research. The certificate program requires 18 credit hours of upper-division undergraduate course work, which includes a three-hour capstone course focusing on the preparation and completion of an independent research thesis. Five courses (in addition to the capstone) are the required minimum and will be distributed according to the following topic areas; each area has a required number of courses.

#### Doctrinal Concentration (two courses)

POLS 353	Constitutional Rights and Liberties
POLS 355	United States Constitutional Development
POLS 461	Jurisprudence
POLS 462	Women and the Law

#### Empirical Concentration (two courses)

POLS 351	Law and Legislation
POLS 356	Law, Politics, and Policy
POLS 357	National Judicial Politics
POLS 358	Comparative Judicial Politics

#### Interdisciplinary Concentration (one course)

SOC 304	Criminology
SOC 455	Sociology of Law
HIST 477	Constitutional History of the United States to 1901

Variable topics courses, such as POLS306, POLS485, POLS489 and POLS497 may qualify, when focused specifically on legal questions 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 thesis independently developed by the student that explores doctrinal or empirical questions or issues at the intersection of law, politics, and society. (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.) The approach or method of investigation may vary with the relative emphasis of the thesis topic on legal doctrine and empirical manifestations of socio-legal issues. Regardless of the approach, however, the thesis is expected to meet the standards of scientific inquiry and discourse of the political science profession.

### **Admission Requirements**

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

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

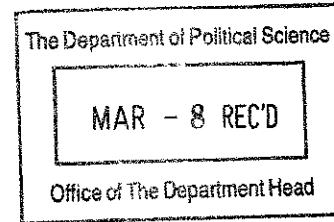
### **Steps to Receive the Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society**

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://lpscertificate.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



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Political Science



MEMO

TO: Walter Buenger, Head, History  
FROM: Patricia A. Hurley, Head *pah*  
RE: History Courses for Certificate Programs in Political Science  
DATE: March 3, 2005

The Department of Political Science is in the process of designing several new certificate programs for undergraduate students. Three of these certificates allow students to choose courses from a menu that includes courses in history. I am requesting your approval to include these courses on the lists.

For the Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics students must choose one course from a list of 23 options outside of Political Science. Seventeen of these courses are offered by the History Department (complete list attached). Because of the wide choice offered students this should add no more than one or two students to any one of these courses in any given semester.

For the Certificate in International Relations students must choose two courses from a list of 16 courses outside of Political Science. Four history courses appear on this list: HIST 305 (Mexican-American History), HIST 319 (US Immigration and Ethnicity), HIST 343 (Inter-American Relations, and HIST 464 (International Development Since 1918) . Again, because of the wide choice allowed students this should result in a very small number of students in these courses in any given semester.

For the Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society, students must choose one course from a menu of one history course : HIST 477 (Constitutional History of the United States to 1901) and two sociology courses: SOCI 304 (Criminology) or SOC 455 (Sociology of Law. Although the course choices are not as wide for this certificate this should not add more than five or six students per course.

Copies of the full set of requirements for these certificate programs are attached. For your convenience I include three approval lines on the next page, one for each certificate. If you approve, I would appreciate you signing on each line and returning this to me at your earliest convenience. I hope to have these approvals prior to the College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Instruction Committee meeting on March 21, 2005. If you approve one but not the other of these requests, please leave the signature line blank for the one that you do not approve.

Please call me at 845-8833 if you have any questions. Thank you.

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<http://www-polisci.tamu.edu>

History courses approved for certificates to be offered  
by the Department of Political Science

The Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics: Walter L. Buenger  
Walter Buenger, Head, HIST

The Certificate in International Relations: Walter L. Buenger  
Walter Buenger, Head, HIST

The Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society: Walter L. Buenger  
Walter Buenger, Head, HIST



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Political Science

MEMO

TO: Rogelio Saenz, Head, Sociology

FROM: Patricia A. Hurley, Head *pa*

RE: Sociology Courses for Certificate Programs in Political Science

DATE: March 3, 2005

The Department of Political Science is in the process of designing several new certificate programs for undergraduate students. Three of these certificates allow students to choose courses from a menu that includes several courses in sociology. I am requesting your approval to include these courses on the lists.

For the Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics students must choose one course from a list of 23 options outside of Political Science. Two sociology courses are included: SOCI 340 (Post Soviet Societies) and SOCI 413 (Social Movements). Because of the wide choice offered students this should add no more than one or two students to these courses in any given semester.

For the Certificate in International Relations students must choose two courses from a list of 16 courses outside of Political Science. Three sociology courses appear on this list: SOCI 313 (Military, War, and Society), SOCI 325 (International Business Behavior), SOCI 423 (Globalization and Social Change). Again, because of the wide choice allowed students this should result in a very small number of students in these courses in any given semester.

For the Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society, students must choose one course from a menu of one History course and two sociology courses: SOCI 304 (Criminology) or SOC 455 (Sociology of Law). Although the course choices are not as wide for this certificate this should not add more than five or six students per course.

Copies of the full set of requirements for these certificate programs are attached. For your convenience I include three approval lines on the next page, one for each certificate. If you approve, I would appreciate you signing on each line and returning this to me at your earliest convenience. I hope to have these approvals prior to the College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Instruction Committee meeting on March 21, 2005. If you approve some but not all of these requests, please leave the signature line blank for any that you do not approve.

Please call me at 845-8833 if you have any questions. Thank you.

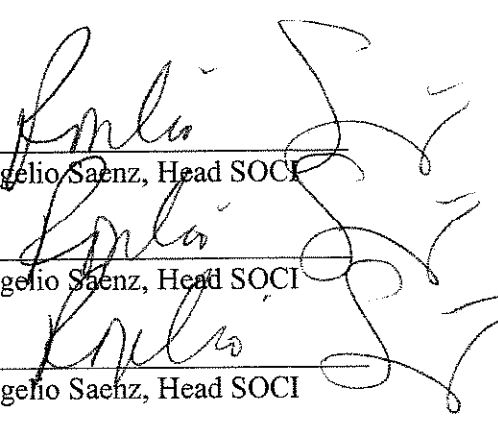


Sociology courses approved for certificates to be offered  
by the Department of Political Science:

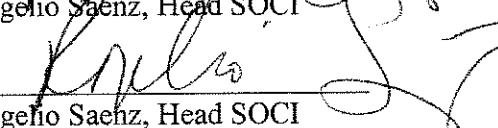
The Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics:

  
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Rogelio Saenz, Head SOCI

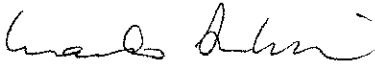
The Certificate in International Relations:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rogelio Saenz, Head SOCI

The Certificate in Law, Politics, and Society:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rogelio Saenz, Head SOCI

Economics courses approved for certificates to be offered by the Department of Political Science

The Certificate in Comparative Study of National Politics:   
Leonardo Auernheimer, Head, ECON

The Certificate in International Relations:   
Leonardo Auernheimer, Head, ECON