

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST Undergraduate Programs	UUPC Approval <u>12-6-21</u> UFS Approval _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Political Science College Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters	
Program Name Bachelor of Arts with Minor in Political Science	<input type="checkbox"/> New Program <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change Program	Effective Date <small>(TERM & YEAR)</small> Fall 2022
Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment See attached memo.		
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Rebecca LeMoine, rlemoine@fau.edu	Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation N/A	
Approved by Department Chair <u>Xevin Wagner</u> College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean <u>[Signature]</u> UUPC Chair <u>Dan Meeroff</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Edward Pratt</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____	Date <u>11/8/21</u> 11.23.21 12-1-2021 12-6-21 12-6-21 _____ _____	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu one week before the UUPC meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UUPC website prior to the meeting.

Political Science Memo and Rationale for Changes

The Department of Political Science has decided to update its curricular program to meet the existing needs of its students. Towards that aim, the department proposes several changes to the undergraduate curriculum, as explained in this memo.

Section 2A

- **POS 3330 will be re-titled to “Exploring Political Science” and will replace POS 3703: Research Methods in Political Science as one of the required courses.**

The current course requirement, POS 3703: Research Methods in Political Science, teaches students advanced quantitative methodology. While some knowledge of quantitative methods is necessary at the undergraduate level, the department thinks students would be better served by a course that exposes them to the field of political science more broadly. POS 3330: Exploring Political Science (proposed new title) was created expressly for this purpose. POS 3330 introduces students to the various subfields of political science, approaches to scientific inquiry within the field, and the fundamentals necessary to conduct initial research in the discipline. Students will be encouraged to take this foundational course early in their academic careers, leading to better performance in their upper-division courses and an improved graduation rate.

- **Change from three required courses (9 credits) to two required courses plus a choice of two out of four required courses (12 credits).**

Currently, Political Science majors must pass three required courses: POS 2041: Government of the U.S.; CPO 3003: Comparative Politics; and POS 3703 Research Methods in Political Science. The current list of required courses excludes some of the major sub-fields of political science, including International Relations and Political Theory. To encourage broader exposure to the various subfields of political science, the requirements will be amended so that all political science majors will now take two foundational courses (POS 3330: Exploring Political Science and POS 2041: Government of the U.S.) plus a choice of two out of four courses representing major subfields of political science: Comparative Politics; International Relations; Research Methods; and Political Theory. This change will ensure that students receive broad exposure to the different sub-fields, which is essential for a complete education in political science. Additionally, the new structure will give students more choices for fulfilling their requirements, which should help to improve graduation rates.

Section 2B

- **Change in upper-division coursework from 27 to 24 credits.**

To encourage broader exposure to the core courses in each subfield of the discipline, we proposed increasing the required courses from 9 to 12 credits. So that the total credits needed for the B.A. in Political Science degree remain at 36 credits, the upper-division coursework has been adjusted accordingly, from 27 to 24 credits.

- **Change in distribution of upper-division coursework.**

The existing requirements specify that majors must complete 27 credits of upper-division coursework with at least 9 credits in “Section A: American Politics, Political Theory, and Public Policy” and at least 6 credits in “Section B: World Politics.” The proposed change would delineate the sub-fields of political science more clearly and encourage students to explore more of the sub-fields by requiring majors to take at least one course (3 credits) in three of the following five categories: American Politics; Comparative Politics; International Relations; Political Theory; and Public Policy/Public Administration.

- **List of upper-division courses replaced with more general language.**

Currently, the degree requirements list specific courses that count towards each section of the upper-division coursework requirement. This list is out-of-date; some of these courses are no longer offered, and some regularly taught courses are not included. This has created substantial confusion for students, as it is not clear to them that courses not on the list may also count towards the major and so they sometimes avoid taking those courses. To remedy this problem, the new requirements will simply read, “Any 3000/4000 level course with a __ prefix [__ 4931/4932 may be repeated for credit with a different topic],” with the blank filled in with the prefix of each designated subfield (POS for American Politics, CPO for Comparative Politics, INR for International Relations, POT for Political Theory, and PUP/PAD for Public Policy/Public Administration). This is similar to language found in the Political Science degree requirements at other SUSF schools, including the University of Florida and Florida State University.

Minor in Political Science:

- **Adjustments to Minor in alignment with Major changes described above.**

In accordance with the changes to the Major as described above, the Minor in Political Science will now require that students take two foundational courses (POS 3330: Exploring Political Science and POS 2041: Government of the U.S.) plus a choice of one out of four courses representing major subfields of political science: Comparative Politics; International Relations; Research Methods; and Political Theory. In addition, Minors will be required to take 2 upper-division courses. Again, this will ensure broad exposure to the discipline and help students to complete the Minor in a timely manner due to the greater number of choices amongst the required classes.

Political Science Minor

A minor in Political Science requires a minimum of 15 credits (12 of which must be taken at FAU) in Political Science courses, including: POS 2041, Government of the U.S., or INR 2002, Introduction to World Politics, or equivalent courses, and four upper-division courses (12 credits), all with a grade of "C" or better.

1. The following two courses:

Exploring Political Science	POS 3713	3
Government of the U.S.*	POS 2041	3

**POS 2041 fulfills the State of Florida's Civic Literacy Requirement.*

2. **One** of the following **four** courses:

Comparative Politics	CPO 3003	3
Introduction to World Politics	INR 2002	3
Research Methods in Political Science	POS 3703	3
Global Political Theory	POT 2002	3

3. 2 upper-division Political Science courses (6 credits) with a grade of "C" or better.