

1st Draft Feedback Submitted to the Political Science PAC

Philip Broyles, Faculty, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, 11/3/2011

Core Courses in Sociology

In most reputable sociology programs, core courses in social theory, social research, statistics, and senior seminar (capstone) are upper division courses at the 300 and 400 level. Completion of these requirements should only be allowed at educational institutions that offer upper-division courses. Lower division courses by the same name are rarely of the same academic level.

Lawrence Farley, Faculty, Lock Haven University, 11/7/2011

"Western" Civilization and Political Theory

Greetings:

1. At LHU (and at most universities around the country) we have not done "Western" civilization history courses for decades--we do world civilizations. Our political theory courses are also not restricted to "Western" thought.

2. At LHU we do political theory at the 300 level--we offer no courses at the freshman (100) and sophomore (200) levels. There are good and sufficient reasons for this.

Thanks! Tom

James Terry, Faculty, Harrisburg Area Community College-HACC, 11/14/2011

Political Science

The requirement that student who transfer from community colleges must have already take Political Philosophy or Theory is too rigid. Most community college don't have political science majors, per se. so there is no way to identify them. More importantly, most community colleges don't teach this course at the freshman-sophomore level because enrollments in such course have proven to be too low to fill a class. I would argue that the alternative of State and Local Government be allowed because this is widely taught at the community college level.

Melanie Blumberg, Faculty, California University of Pennsylvania, 11/18/2011

Political Science

I. Introduction and Overview

Suggested change: "...Analysis of governmental organizations and processes often involves knowledge of the political system (actors, institutions, and law) as a whole, in other words politics or "who gets what, when, and how."

Comment: MSCHE specifically states the word "understanding" sends up a red flag. Evaluators caution against using the word in any context. "Who gets what, when, and how" is Harold Lasswell's definition of politics and, as such, should enclosed be in quotation marks.

II. REQUIRED MAJOR-SPECIFIC COURSEWORK (12 credits)

1. American (United States) Government (Politics)

Suggested changes: Students will examine the government and politics and politics of the United States as emanating from the theoretical principles that underlie the Constitution. Examine political development through assessment of the structure and organization of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as civil liberties and civil rights. Focus on the political factors and dynamics of democracy and actors within the system: citizens, political parties, interest groups, the media, public opinion and political behavior, and electoral processes. Public policy will be considered with respect to its impact on minority groups.

Comments: The word “Constitution” has to be capitalized. There are other slight modifications with respect to wording changes and the addition of public opinion and political behavior. Omit the “or” notations, as the parentheses indicate the alternative wording.

4. Political Theory (Political Philosophy or Political Thought)
Suggested change: Use Political Theory as the primary subfield.

Comment: Political Theory is more widely recognized than the other two terms. Add “Political” to the alternative wording.

III. RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE CONTENT AND COURSEWORK
(credits toward eventual transfer into 4-year Political Science program)
4. Constitutional Law

Suggested change: . . .Students will be exposed to the primary arguments made by advocates on opposing sides of the controversies surrounding the structure, organization, and functioning of government.

Comment: The wording “most sides” is changed to “opposing sides,” which is indicative of court cases. Two courses—Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers and Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights—are folded into one catchall course. These should be separated, as one general course should not substitute for two courses that examine governmental and civil liberties and civil rights in detail.

Appendix B: 30-Credit transfer Framework

Two TAOC-approved courses are missing from Category 5: Human Growth & Development and Child Psychology.

Note: All course descriptions should be edited for consistency: (1) the mixture of complete and incomplete sentences in the descriptions, (2) parallel construction, and (3) comma placement.

I hope these comments are helpful. They are, by no means, meant to be critical. Drafting the articulation and transfer parameters is a herculean task.

Barbara Ford, 11/23/2011

Subject: Political Science

- In Section I, Introduction and Overview, paragraph 3, 3rd bullet: “at least 30 credits of foundation courses from the Transfer Credit Framework” is inconsistent with the definition of the Framework (Section V, Transfer Credit Framework), which says “up to 30 credits.”
- Appendix B chart does not make it clear if the Framework courses are required or recommended. Each other section in the chart is labeled either REQUIRED or RECOMMENDED, but the last section is not. If the whole Framework is required, in order to be consistent with Section I, which says “at least 30 credits of foundation courses from the Transfer Credit Framework”, then it should be labeled as REQUIRED on the chart. If Required, then each related associate degree must include, for example, 2 math courses and 2 natural science courses

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Political Science PAC
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Ginny Mihalik, 11/25/2011

Subject: N/A

Page 6- Recommend removing the specific number "49" from the first sentence, second paragraph, "The Framework consists of a menu of 49 courses..." to allow for courses to be added in the future without having to revise the agreement.

Thank you to the PAC members for your hard work.
