

University Curriculum Committee Report (Chair: Alistair Welchman)

May 2016 Meeting of the Faculty Senate

There are three issues before the committee for the month of May 2016

1. A proposed BA in Politics and Law from the Department of Political Science and Geography in COLFA
2. A request from the same department to rename the BA in Geography to 'BA in Geography and Environmental Sustainability'
3. The UG Catalog for 2016-17

1 BA in Politics and Law

This proposal introduces a new BA degree in Politics and Law (PLW) that consists of a common sequence of five courses that introduce them to the study of politics and law, followed by 18h of upper level courses distributed across two concentrations, "Law and Society" and "Law and Governmental Affairs," 6h of support work or an Internship, and a capstone seminar (PLW 4973). The two concentrations correspond broadly to a theoretical track and a practical track; and the proposal also outlines a new minor with 9h or introductory work, 6h of upper level courses and 3h of support work all drawn from a subset of the courses for the major.

UTSA already has a Legal Studies minor (also housed in Political Science and Geography), and a well-attended Institute for Law and Public Affairs. The existing Legal Studies minor will become PLW minor. The Department is aware of the potential advising problems this may cause and is preparing to ameliorate them as much as possible.

The BA program is designed primarily to prepare students for entry to graduate school, especially to law school, and secondarily for careers in business, public service and non-profits where some legal knowledge short of a JD is beneficial: the proposal notes an increasing 'judicialization' of administrative structures in various kinds of organization, coupled with a shortage of trained counsel.

The difficulty prelaw degrees face is that law schools explicitly deprecate them: paradoxically, students trained in non-legal disciplines, especially traditional liberal arts disciplines, especially philosophy and classics (as the proposal notes), perform better on the LSAT and are often more attractive candidates for law school than students who have undergone a narrow professional education. The BA in Politics and Law attempts to finesse this problem by providing just such a wide liberal arts type degree, while giving students an edge in terms of their knowledge of specifically legal issues.

The degree of course also prepares students for graduate work in political science and dovetails with emerging one- and two-year graduate programs at U.S. law schools,

particularly master's degrees in Jurisprudence, Legal Studies, or Justice and Social Policy.

There are no similar degrees in Texas, but many high prestige institutions outside of Texas (e.g. University of Wisconsin, University of Indiana) have successfully introduced such programs.

Demand for the existing LGS minor is very high—according to the proposal annual attendance has risen from ~450 in 2010 to more than 550 in 2014. And, according to the American Bar Association, UTSA in the top 5% of 240 “feeder” institutions for law schools, something that demonstrates a high level of potential demand for the new BA, estimated to rise to 150 majors by the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the program.

A couple of points stand out in the proposal. The internship option (with up to 6 credits) will be run by Prof. Javier Oliva, a senior lecturer in the Department with a J.D. and a long career as a lawyer in San Antonio, whose experience will be a great asset; and a team will be developed to compete in national moot court competitions.

Judging by Appendix A, almost no new courses will be needed: only the courses essential to major will be wholly new (PLW 4911-2-3 Independent Study, PLW 4933 Internship, 4953 Special Studies, 4973 Seminar and 4993 for Honors Theses). All the other courses will be exempted from existing Political Science, Global Affairs or Legal Studies courses. However, the high projected demand (and internship and moot court options) leads to a relatively large budget, the bulk of which (\$360,000) is for two TT hires (in the first and fourth years), but with costs for the Internship coordinator (\$20,000 over five years), moot court coach (\$25,000) and student travel to moot court competitions (\$40,000).

The UCC studied the proposal and votes unanimously (9 for, none against, no abstentions) to recommend approval to the Senate. The committee found the proposal to be well researched and usually persuasive. The case for a Politics and Law BA is clear.

The committee would like to note how responsive the Department has been to various challenges for the degree raised by the UCC and the College of Public Policy.

## 2 Renaming of the BA in Geography to ‘BA in Geography and Environmental Sustainability’

Such changes are fairly common in the discipline (about a fifth of programs have changed their name), reflecting an increasing concern with environmental studies, whose natural home is often the discipline of geography.

The UCC studied the proposal and votes (7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention) to recommend approval to the Senate.

One committee member thought the move an unnecessary exercise in rebranding.

### 3 UCC Comments on UG Catalog 2016-17

The UCC reviewed the proposed changes to the UG Catalog and votes (8 in favor, none against, 1 abstention) to recommend approval to the Senate, notwithstanding the following issues, which should be communicated to departments.

Frontmatter

No comments

College of Architecture, Construction and Planning

pp. 43-44:

under "B. Interior Design Sequence

1. 78 semester credit hours..."

But the credit hours listed add up only to 75.

The total of 97 on the top of page 44 adds up, so I suspect it should read "1. 75 credit hours..."

College of Business

No comments

College of Education and Human Development

No comments

College of Engineering

No comments

College of Liberal and Fine Arts

My general comment is that the catalogue needs a thorough editing and the establishment of a style sheet that designates how to consistently use capital letters in describing courses of study, majors, and minors. For example, Core Curriculum sometimes has initial caps and sometimes not when used in the same context. In general, there is an overuse of initial capital letters.

There is also inconsistency in the way course descriptions are written.

Having worked as an editor in the past, I can't make much sense out of the task we were assigned to do. At any rate, here are some issues in my section COLFA 471-559.

COLFA, 474, inconsistency in designating minor

**MSM 4913. Independent Study in Museum Studies. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Scholarly research under the supervision of a faculty member on method, theory, or practice in the museum profession. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, may apply to **the Museum Studies minor** or a bachelor's degree.

To be consistent, change the Museum Studies minor to standard of **Minor in Museum Studies**.

COLFA, 480

Sentence at top of page needs attention:

**To declare a Minor in American Indian Studies, obtain advice, obtain lists of relevant courses, or seek approval of substitutions for course requirements, students should consult their academic advisor.**

I am not certain what the intent of the sentence is and if students are supposed to consult their academic advisor for advice, lists of relevant courses and approvals for substitutions.

COLFA – Anthropology section

Some course descriptions are written in complete sentences, while most are not. This is a bigger editing job than may be called for at this point.

For example, here is a description written in complete sentences:

**ANT 4023. Histories of Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: ANT 2033, ANT 2043, ANT 2053, or ANT 2063 recommended. This course examines the history of anthropology as a distinct field, including considerations of historical figures, institutions and relationships among subfields. Emphasis will be placed on changes in theoretical and methodological orientations as they emerge in specific historical contexts.

Here is a course description written in incomplete sentences:

**ANT 4113. Archaeology of Texas. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: ANT 2043 or ANT 3263 recommended. Detailed review of prehistoric and historic aboriginal cultures of Texas and adjacent areas; current trends in Texas archaeology; examination of artifacts; and field trips to local prehistoric sites.

Several 3000 level courses in Anthropology have no prerequisites listed, while most courses at this level do have a prerequisite requirement. Those without prerequisites include the following:

ANT 3013. Evolutionary Medicine. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

ANT 3023. Great Discoveries in Archaeology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

ANT 3233. Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

ANT 3413. The Ethnographic Experience. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

ANT 3843. Introduction to Primate Diversity. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

There are others also.

COLFA – Art section

It seems that some course descriptions were written at one time with a certain format in mind and others were added later in a different format. Working on making course descriptions more consistent is probably more of a long-term project.

Unlike other course descriptions, the following one is written partially in future tense.

**ART 3513. Photography: Intermediate. (0-6) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: ART 2313. Students will build on technical knowledge through introduction of 35mm and medium film formats as well as black & white techniques and laboratory procedures. Students will further conceptual exploration of photography as a fine art medium through projects that explore historic and contemporary genres. Students must have access to a 35mm analog (film) SLR camera. Transfer students who have not had experience with traditional darkroom must enroll in this course before proceeding to Photography: Advanced Topics. This course cannot may be repeated for additional credit. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

Some course descriptions seem out of balance in terms of level of information compared to other course descriptions. Here is an example:

**ART 4233. Drawing: Advanced. (0-6) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisites: ART 3233 and consent of instructor. Diverse topics with an emphasis on contemporary drawing practices such as drawing and the body, drawing and duration, and drawing and site. May be repeated for credit. (Formerly titled "Drawing III.") Generally offered: Summer.

**ART 4313. New Media. (0-6) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: ART 2223. The focus of this course is on new media as an extension of fine arts practice. Depending on the term topic, there may be instruction in static and/or non-static electronic media, including various forms such as digital print, Web, video, animation, and sound. Students will be encouraged to use digital and other new media tools experimentally to create original electronically generated art that amplifies and extends image making beyond traditional techniques. ART 4313 may be repeated for credit. Specific UTSA Department of Art and Art History degree plans require students to take this course multiple times, up to 15 credit hours (including Internship and Independent Study where the work falls primarily in the discipline of New Media). Students are expected to enroll in varying sections of ART 4313 in order to expand their knowledge of diverse new media: New Media: Video; New Media: Sound; New Media: Animation; New Media: Web. Students will be required to demonstrate an advanced and expanded performance, which includes execution of artwork, progression in digital media literacy and writing ability, building on their accomplishments in prior sections of ART 4313. This process of developing a refined skill set is time consuming and individualized to each student, as are the benchmarks of material, process and conceptual success that characterize each student's work. Students taking ART 4313 for additional credit will be evaluated on an increased mastery of the skill sets defined above in the learning outcomes of this course. Increased mastery of skills will include but not be limited to: The exploration of an additional area of digital media not used in prior semesters; The experimentation with, and the refinement of, an additional process(es) not used in prior semesters; Improved personal standard of quality demonstrated by a refinement in the

sophistication of conceptual, material and process success that characterize the student's work; A demonstrated improvement of the student's ability or skill to formulate and verbally articulate his or her developing artistic direction measured against performance in prior semesters as well as over the course of the semester; An increased and more specific understanding of the history of new media especially directed towards the interests and investigations of the student. (Formerly titled "Multimedia Art.") Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

COLFA – 518

Notice how Communications Major has initial caps in one sentence but not in another.

**Direct Admission Criteria**

Transfer students who have completed transferable college credit in courses equivalent to the 9-semester-credit-hour pre-Communication sequence with a "C-" or better in each course will be directly admitted to the **Communication major**.

**Department Honors**

Students whose grade point average in the **communication major** (including support work) before the beginning of their final year at UTSA is 3.25 or above, and whose overall grade point

COLFA- 529

The following course description stands out from the others in length and sentence construction:

**COM 3393. Communication for Health Professionals. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: Restricted to students participating in the FAME program. This course will offer a broad overview of both theoretical and applied approaches to health communication that align with the TIME (Transformation in Medical Education) competencies. The overall goal for this course is to prepare students to communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Students will be exposed to a variety of health communication topics, including issues in provider-recipient communication, decision-making, social identity, family dynamics, the role of culture in health and disease, and healthcare delivery. Specifically, students will study how to engage in difficult conversations with families and patients regarding end of life treatment options and palliative care; delivery of bad news to patients and family members using a patient-centered approach; and verbal and nonverbal communication competencies when engaged as part of an interdisciplinary team. Additionally, a specific focus will be placed on conveying respect, compassion and empathy during medical interviews and delivering diagnoses and treatment. All theoretical and applied healthcare contexts examined in this course will be aligned with five core communication principles including: awareness, verbal communication, nonverbal communication, listening, and adapting.

COLFA, 567, under Fourth year, Fall, "Upper-division African/Asian/Latin American HIS" should be "Upper-division African/Asian HIS"; and replace one "Upper-division HIS Elective" with "Upper-division Latin American HIS" - to conform to the change in the degree requirements, see A.3 on p. 565.

COLFA, 590, opening paragraph, 5th line, on the Minors: should add "East Asian Studies" as the latest new program.

COLFA, 600, Minor in East Asian Studies, B. electives: should add HIS 3913 Late Imperial China

\*I was not at the Dec Senate meeting when the program was approved, but I remember making the requested addition when our committee reviewed the proposal.

COLFA, 652, line broken up - should be "Course Sequence Guide..."

p. 677

consistent indenting for LAT/GRK 1114/1124/2113

pp. 677f

degree requirements for Humanities emphasis of BA in Classical Studies and Humanities don't include the Introduction to Humanities courses (HUM 2023/2033)! Surely they should be required.

p. 679

should the course sequence guide really recommend students to take language courses in their first semester? Or even second? (PHI for instance doesn't require anything PHI courses until the second year)

p. 684, p. 687

correct indenting (course names shouldn't be indented, but flush to the same line)

p. 687

what's the rationale for removing BIO 3613 (Biology of Aging) from Health Careers concentration of MHU degree?

pp. 687 f

spacing between lists of courses for degree needs increasing

p. 693

Eliminate space before 'Art and Music' in Degree Requirements

p. 696

Minor in Humanities only requires one HUM course at 2000 level? Should at least HUM 2023/2033 and perhaps some others should be required.

p. 697

Minor in Religious Studies

HIS 3453 History of Medicine in America should be HIS 3463 History of Religion in America

CLA 3123, HUM/PHI 4973 should only be permitted when the topic is appropriate (and it's not obvious that a seminar from another discipline is appropriate as a requirement for a minor—students will have the chance to take a seminar in their major area of study)

p. 699

CLA 2023 has not been offered in the Summer for a while.

p. 700

CLA 3063 has been offered only once in the summer over the last 3 years

p. 707

Consider changing MHU 4813 to 4953 in line with other degrees in the department (and COLFA standard nomenclature)

p. 708

From what I understand, PHI 2043 will no longer be offered in the summer

p. 712

It's not meaningful to say that PHI 4993 is generally offered in the fall! It's offered more or less on demand

In general, these predictions about course offerings need to be checked by someone in the department (and in addition seasons should not be capitalized)

p. 715

capitalization in section 2 of the Geography BA degree requirements should be consistent.

pp. 729 Minor in LGS

This is all up for grabs, since a new proposal is before the UCC right now.

p. 748

Model UN class sounds fun!

p. 750

Use a consistent font for new LAS entries

p. 757

POL 3223 'May or may not employ a comparative perspective' – doesn't contain any information, and should be deleted.

p. 759

POL 3393 'This introductory course ...' the course is upper division, and hence not introductory by the normal standards. Delete term.

p. 760

POL 3423 Ditto re the use of the term 'introduction'? Could be misleading, consider deleting term (see e.g. POL 3473, a course at exactly the same level, which describes itself as an 'advanced survey')

POL 3453 Ditto re 'introductory' course. But whole description looks wrong, since it talks about Latin America, but the course title is 'Politics of Mexico'

p. 761

POL 3473

'Advanced survey of major theories and problems in Latin American political and economic development. Theories of dependency, corporatism, bureaucratic authoritarianism, and transitions of democracy' should probably be 'Advanced survey of major theories and problems in Latin American political and economic development., theories of dependency, corporatism, bureaucratic authoritarianism, and transitions of democracy'

p. 762

POL 3583 '... with emphasis on relevant works of political philosophy and that of important jurists' should be '... and those of ...'

p. 768

It's not meaningful to say that POL 4993 is generally offered in the fall!

pp. 777f

It's a bit weird and certainly confusing to students that many PSY 3xxx level courses with numbers less than 3403/3413 require 3403/3413 as a prerequisite. Recommend

renumbering 3404/3413 to something less than 3023 consistent with its role as a prerequisite for many upper division PSY courses.

p. 788

If the Public Health BS is offered by SOC (even in part), then SOC's general intro should say something about it and explain something about its institutional home. It can't just appear in the middle of the SOC department's part of the catalog without explanation!

p. 793

the MPH 4+1 program is a graduate degree, and shouldn't have a place as a degree in the UG catalog. A note should be made that students on the BA in Public Health have the opportunity to accelerate their MPH under appropriate circumstances.

College of Public Policy

No comments

College of Science

Biology and CS talks about a new certificate program called Pathogenic Outbreak Investigations

COS, Biology, page 837 in 09-16-17COS\_compare.pdf

"The Department also offers the Certificate in Pathogenic Outbreak Investigations in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science and the Department Information Systems and Cyber Security in the College of Business. The certificate is located in the Department Information Systems and Cyber Security. "

COS, Computer Science, page 903 in in 09-16-17COS\_compare.pdf

"The Department also offers the Certificate in Pathogenic Outbreak Investigations in collaboration with the Department of Biology and the Department of Information Systems and Cyber Security in the College of Business"

First, there is typo in biology description: like in CS version, they should say the "the Department \*of\* Information System..."

Second, Biology says "The certificate is located in the Department Information Systems and Cyber Security. " and does not include any other information about the requirements while Computer science deletes "The certificate is located in the Department Information Systems and Cyber Security. " and gave a full details about the certification program in pages 910-911.

I am not sure if both needs to include it or just say its located in "the Department of Information Systems and Cyber Security" and give the details in IS-CS section. Needs to be double checked.

University College

page 1010

Under MSC 4013, the new cop should omit the operative noun: "Is an..."

It should read, "This course is an..."

Honors College

HON, 1015 Need to review use of caps for "honors" in this paragraph.

Throughout a student's program of study, the Honors College emphasizes breadth of academic experience. In the junior and senior years, Honors students are encouraged to gain expertise in their academic field through **Honors work** in the major and an **Honors capstone experience**. Students who pursue **Highest Honors** produce an **honors capstone project** under the direction of a faculty member from the student's major department.

HON, 1016 Incorrect use of colon. Take out colon between "they" and "rank"

Freshmen and freshman transfer applicants will be automatically admitted to the Honors College if they: rank in the top 10 percent of their class and have a 1200+ SAT (CR+M) or 27+

HON, 1021 incorrect use of colon. Before the (1) state "if they do the following:

**International Distinction**

Students who have been admitted to the Honors College and pursue any of the Honors distinctions may also qualify for graduation with international distinction. Students qualify for graduation with international distinction if they: (1) complete all the requirements for Business Honors, General Honors, Leadership Honors, or Highest Honors; and (2) either master a foreign language at the 2023 level or above or participate in a study-abroad experience for at least one Spring or Fall semester.1

Appendix B. National Standardized Tests: Minimum Scores Required for Credit at UTSA

TESTS, 1032 Needs comma and elimination of colon

Second line below should read "prior learning experiences, such as the Advanced Students are encouraged to maximize their experience at UTSA by accessing the credit that can be received through prior learning experiences such as: the Advanced Placement (AP) program, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Competency Based Exams (CBE), Dantes (DSST

TESTS, 1037 Add comma to compound sentence. Place comma after "average" and before "but."

**Competency Based Exams (CBE)**

Students who take and successfully pass a departmentally created Competency Based Exam will receive credit in the course for which the exam was taken. The grade of "CR" will not be included in the UTSA grade point average but the hours for the course will contribute to overall hours taken and count toward the minimum UTSA residence requirements.

