

UC 11282115



U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

APPROVED MAR 23 2011

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED FEB 10 2011

TO: Dr. Simon Bott, Instructional Professor and Chair, Undergraduate Council.

FROM: Dr. Gregory Weiher, Professor and Director, National Security Studies Minor.

DATE: January 24, 2010

I write to request a revision of the requirement limiting overlap between the National Security Studies Minor and the student's major (please refer to <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/colleges/las/minors/m-natl-security-studies/index.php>).

Whereas the present 2010-2011 Undergraduate Catalog states that "a student may not use more than six hours of work in the NSS minor to satisfy requirements for a major field," this limitation should be amended to read that "a student may not use more than six hours of work in the NSS minor to satisfy requirements for a major field **and/or any other minor.**"

While interdisciplinary in scope, the NSS minor has a specific focus. It should, therefore, represent a substantive achievement beyond the coursework used to satisfy minors in such fields as History or Political Science that contribute to its repertoire. The new language above would require a student with a double minor to devote at least 12 hours to NSS subject matter. Without it, a student could hypothetically qualify for the NSS minor by simply doing a Political Science major along with a History minor plus the NSS capstone course (AFSC 4302). Many undergraduates majoring in Political Science have minors in History, and vice versa. The extension of the overlap rule would allow the NSS minor to stand apart as a specific accomplishment for students with majors and minors in the two fields upon which the NSS minor largely draws.

Approved
CLASS U.S.C.
2/9/11

Addendum

UC 11282 115

Approved by CLASS USC



Dr. Sarah Fishman

3/1/11

Date

TO: Dr. Sarah Fishman, Associate Dean, CLASS
FROM: Dr. Gregory Weiher, Director, National Security Studies Minor, Department of Political Science
DATE: February 22, 2011
RE: Proposal for changes in the National Security Studies Minor

RECEIVED MAR 01 2011

Background:

The Department of Political Science recently initiated the multi-discipline minor on the study of national security. After additional study and research into the needs of those graduating with the minor it was felt that a need existed to clarify the requirements of the minor and to increase the offerings in the minor. After discussions with the departments involved we recommend the following changes to the catalog language and the addition of several courses as choices in three of the areas.

ACTION:

In the area of The Contemporary Security Environment the following courses would be added: POLS 2360 Introduction to National Security Studies and POLS 4330 Causes and Politics of War. In the area of National Security Policy and Institutions the following courses would be added: POLS 3313 Introduction to International Relations, POLS 3331 American Foreign Policy, POLS 4365 National Defense Policy, POLS 4396 International Law and the Law of War, and POLS 4397 National Security Law. In the area of Applications and Skills the following courses would be added: POLS 4396 Intelligence Analysis and POLS 4396 Risk Analysis and Assessment.

Additionally, the format of the introduction and discussion would be altered to provide for an easier understanding of the purpose, goals, and requirements of the minor.

If approved, the catalog language would read:

NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES MINOR

The National Security Studies Minor prepares students with diverse majors for careers in homeland security, intelligence collection and analysis, foreign relations, Department of Defense, Department of State, and related areas, or to enter graduate programs that will further prepare them for careers in these areas. These careers might be as diverse as being a diplomat, a cryptologist, an area studies specialist, a linguist, an intelligence analyst, an energy economist, or a policy analyst. The program culminates in a capstone course that integrates student experiences in other courses within the minor into a Crisis Management Exercise (CME, or "wargame"). The CME requires students to play the roles of civilian officials and military officers tasked with addressing the crisis situation at hand in an interagency environment.

Requirements:

Students complete a National Security Studies Minor by completing a minimum of eighteen hours in approved courses

Students must take the capstone course in National Security Affairs (AFSC 4301 or AFSC 4302)

Students must take at least one course from the “Contemporary Security Environment” list

Students must take at least one course from those included under “National Security Policies and Institutions”

Students must take a total of three courses (9 hours) from the “Contemporary Security Environment” and the “National Security Policies and Institutions” lists.

Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better in their minor courses.

A student may not use more than six hours of work in the NSS Minor to satisfy requirements for a major field and/or any other minor.

Of course, eighteen hours is a minimum requirement – students may take additional NSSM courses as their schedules and other requirements permit. The remainder of the hours requirement can be satisfied by choosing electives from the NSSM courses listed below. Students with very specific interests may petition the director to have a course in another department/program substituted as an elective course for the NSSM.

During the sophomore year, students are also encouraged to apply for internships with the State Department, Department of Defense, National Security agency, Central Intelligence Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies in the attempt to enhance their understanding of various aspects of national security in a non-academic setting.

COURSES

Capstone Courses (Pick 1)

AFSC 4302. National Security Affairs (Fall)

AFSC 4302. National Security Affairs (Spring)

The Contemporary Security Environment (Pick 1 or 2)

POLS 2360 Introduction to National Security Studies

POLS 3335 Political Terrorism

POLS 4330 Causes and Politics of War

POLS 4348 Contemporary Islamic Political Thought

POLS 4349 International Energy Politics

POLS 4394. Ideologies and Political Movements

HIST 3394. War, Globalization, and Terrorism

National Security Policy and Institutions (Pick 1 or 2)

POLS 3313 Introduction to International Relations