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November 10, 2013

To: Political Science Majors and Pre-Majors
Fr: Michael Thies, Vice Chair for Undergraduate Studies, Dep't of Political Science
Re: Petitions for substitutions of non-PoliSci courses for credit toward the PoliSci major

Dear Students,

Over the past several years, we have made changes to the Political Science program with the aim of increasing course availability, removing unnecessary requirements, and improving the academic rigor and coherence of the major. As part of this evolution and improvement of our program, we have tightened the criteria for petitions to substitute other departments' courses for the requirements of the Political Science Major. Accordingly, some courses that have been accepted as substitutes in the past may no longer be accepted.

The most important criterion for considering another department's course will be the amount of political science content in the course. Note that this is not the same as whether or not the subject of another department's course would be of interest to political scientists. We want upper-division political science credit to go only to political science courses or courses with equivalent political science content.

Your best bet is always to consult with a Political Science Undergraduate Counselor before you take an outside course that you would like to count toward the Political Science Major. Typically, if a seat is available in a Political Science course that would fulfill a requirement, the counselors will steer you toward that course. Petitions to count out-of-department courses toward the requirements of the Political Science major will be approved only in rare circumstances.