

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7014S
Date of Senate Approval 3/06/14

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 58: **Add new courses: POLS 240, 261, 311, 316, 391, 393 and 394**

Effective Date: Fall 2014

1. Add: On page 246, new course, **POLS 240:**

240 Political Ideas and Imagination (4)

An introduction to classic works of political thought and the way ideas can be used to understand the political world. Close readings of select ancient, modern, and contemporary political thinkers explore such issues as the nature of politics. What is political power? What makes for a just political order? What is the relation between ends and means in politics? And what role ought citizens to play in a democratic society? Fall and Spring.

2. Add: On page 246, new course, **POLS 261:**

261 Introduction to Comparative Politics (4)

An introduction to the study of political institutions, processes, and outcomes within and across countries. Special emphasis is placed on important themes of contemporary comparative politics, including political regimes, democratization, political institutions, political culture, and conflict with examples drawn from different countries and historical periods. Fall and Spring.

Impact: The new courses will be part of the regular teaching load of current faculty and will not require additional resources.

Rationale: POLS 240 and 261 are being added as options for students to satisfy the department's introductory course requirements. They are based on both student and faculty interest.

3. Add: On page 246, new course, **POLS 311:**

311 Comparative Conflict Processes: Revolutions, Regime Change, & Civil Conflict (4)

A comparative exploration of political conflict and collective violence based on a comparative analysis of cases from different countries and time periods. Topics include social revolutions, regime change and democratization, ethnic conflict and civil war, as well as protest movements and state repression. Spring.

4. Add: On page 246, new course, **POLS 316:**

316 Comparative Parties and Elections (4)

Modern democratic government is unthinkable save in terms of parties. This course explores the role political parties play in the democratic process. It examines party formation, organization, influence, and electoral competition across varying institutional, economic, and cultural contexts. By comparing the processes used in democracies from

different regions, the course seeks to evaluate how institutional arrangements affect the ability of parties to translate citizens' preferences into policy outcomes. Fall.

Impact: These classes will be part of the regular teaching load of a new member of the department.

Rationale: These courses reflect the teaching and research interests of a new faculty member. POLS 311 and 316 increase the scope of the department's coverage of international and comparative politics.

5. **Add:** On page 250, new course, **POLS 391:**

391 Application of Political Methods (2)

Examines various methods Political Scientists use to investigate the political world. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit as topics vary. Prerequisite: POLS 290. See department chair.

Impact: This course is an elective so it will not impose any additional obligations on students or faculty but will allow faculty, including those teaching sections of POLS 490, an opportunity to increase the sophistication of the undergraduate research students conduct.

Rationale: The Political Science discipline and the UNC Asheville Political Science faculty embrace a wide range of methods for analysis. The new course provides a venue for faculty to teach and apply different methods or approaches to political inquiry with interested students.

6. **Add:** On page 250, new course, **POLS 393:**

393 Quantitative Reasoning I: Telling Stories with Numbers and Data (2)

Gives students the tools to explore, investigate, and analyze data and incorporate empirical evidence into compelling arguments. As part of the course, students will be introduced to the powerful programming language R (freely available), which will be used to analyze real datasets. Prerequisites: POLS 290, STAT 185. See department chair.

7. **Add:** On page 250, new course, **POLS 394:**

394 Quantitative Reasoning II: Visualizing Beautiful Evidence (2)

A continuation of POLS 393 with an emphasis on revealing hidden patterns, and communicating quantitative arguments to any audience. The focus is on data visualization as an essential tool of analysis. Prerequisite: POLS 393. See department chair.

Impact: These classes will be part of the regular teaching load of a new member of the department. The use of two-credit-hour courses adds more flexibility for students and faculty and helps meet the Delaware requirements.

Rationale: These courses reflect the teaching and research interests of a new faculty member. POLS 393 and 394 expand the department's ability to cultivate research and data management skills that are increasingly demanded by graduate schools, businesses, and government, international, and non-profit organizations.