

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6416S  
Date of Senate Approval 2/11/16

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 54:**                      **Change the credit hours for POLS 290;  
Delete POLS 460, adding the content to POLS 490, changing  
the credit hours for POLS 490 from 2 to 4 credits**

**Effective Date: Fall 2016**

**1. Delete:** On page 251, the entry for **POLS 290:**

**290 Political Analysis (2)**

An introduction to political inquiry and methodology, focusing on the process of making and supporting knowledge claims about political phenomena based on political science theory and methods. Fall.

**Add:** On page 251, in place of deleted entry:

**290 Political Analysis (4)**

An introduction to political inquiry and methodology, focusing on the process of making and supporting knowledge claims about political phenomena based on political science theory and methods. The class will also include instruction on reviewing the literature and using proper citation, as well as using and interpreting data. Fall and Spring.

**Impact:** Changing the course from a 2-credit to a 4-credit course will help us better prepare students for undergraduate research while also making it easier to rotate the class among faculty members in the department (because we won't have to find another 2-credit course to match with it).

**Rationale:** As the department has increased emphasis on undergraduate research, we have found that students need more instruction of research design and research methods than the current 2-credit class allows.

**2. Delete:** On page 256, the entry for **POLS 460**

**460 Senior Colloquium (1-3)**

Students and faculty formally present and discuss their research projects and field experiences. Students are required to orally demonstrate their mastery of their project and the significance and implications of their work. Pre- or corequisite: POLS 490. Spring.

**3. Delete:** On page 256, the entry for **POLS 490:**

**490 Senior Research Seminar (2)**

A research seminar in which students conduct a supervised investigation of a political phenomenon. The research is presented to the Senior Colloquium. An IP grade may be awarded. Fall.

**Add:** On page 256, in place of deleted entry:

**490 Senior Research Capstone (4)**

A research class in which students undertake supervised investigation of political phenomena and present the findings of their research in an oral presentation. This course fulfills the senior competency requirements for Political Science majors, as well as the oral, writing and information literacy competencies. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. Fall and Spring.

**Impact:** Currently POLS 460 and 490 are each 2-credit courses required for all majors. They are taught every semester by 2 different faculty members, at different times. Deleting POLS 460 and incorporating that content into 490 will simplify the curriculum and create advantages for both the department and students. A single 4-credit course will be easier to schedule for both faculty and students and will be easier to rotate among faculty members. Since POLS 460 has always been offered as a 2-credit course, there will not be an increase to the number of hours in the major.

**Rationale:** We are combining the senior research and research presentation courses in the interest of simplifying the senior requirements and minimizing scheduling challenges. It also makes more sense for the faculty member who mentors the student's research to also evaluate the oral presentation.