

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3817S

Date of Senate Approval 04/13/17

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 35 (POLS): Delete POLS 393 and POLS 394, replacing with POLS 396

Effective Date: Fall 2017

1. Delete: On pages 265-6, the entries for **POLS 393 and POLS 394:**

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.

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.

Add: On pages 265-6, in place of the deleted entries:

396 Quantitative Reasoning: Telling Stories with Numbers (4)

Focuses on exploring, illustrating and communicating compelling stories hidden in data. Part art, programming and statistical reasoning, data description and visualization skills have become critical for anyone who seeks to substantiate claims to knowledge. A proficiency in data analysis is essential for those pursuing careers in policy advocacy and evaluation, business consulting and management, or academic research in the fields of education, health, medicine, and the social sciences. This course introduces students to the open-source programming language R, statistical techniques to analyze data, and the fundamentals of creating data-analysis graphics. No prior background in programming is required or expected. Prerequisite: POLS 290, STAT 185 or STAT 225. See department chair.

Impact Statement: There will be no expected impact on the resources and staffing of the Political Science department due to the proposed changes to POLS 393 and POLS 394. These are existing courses and the proposed combining of POLS 393 and POLS 394 will not impact how material is delivered. In the past POLS 393 and POLS 394 have been offered in term I and term II of the same semester, respectively. Combining the course will merely simplify administrative and registration procedures.

Rationale: POLS 393 and POLS 394 were adopted as fulfilling the Scientific Perspectives requirement of the Universities Liberal Arts core. Combining POLS 393 and POLS 394 into one 4-credit hour offering, will help students register for this course. At present, the POLS 290 prerequisite and the POLS 393 corequisite impose significant barriers to students seeking to enroll in the sequence – especially non-majors. Despite always being offered in the same semester, students require a POLS 393 prerequisite override to enroll in POLS 394 because courses are offered in separate terms. As such, combining the two courses and modifying the POLS 290 requirement, should ease the registration process and allow especially non-political science students to enroll in the course.