

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD1822S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 14 (POLS) Reinstatement POLS 310 and 324, updating the titles and descriptions

Effective Date: Fall 2022

1. **Add:** On page 272, reinstate **POLS 310** with new title and course description:

310 The Politics and Policy of Immigration (4)

An exploration of U.S. immigration policy that will cover its history, development, and the different actors involved in that process. Topics covered include immigrant incorporation, the naturalization process, fiscal impacts of immigration, and enforcement, amongst others. See department chair.

2. **Add:** On page 273, reinstate **POLS 324** with new title and course description:

324 The Politics of Marginalization (4)

This course explores the various ways in which representation has been conceptualized and studied in the discipline. A central part of that exploration entails looking at the individual, and relative, representation afforded to different groups in American society – from race-class subjugated communities to those that are part of distinct marginalized groups based on sex, sexual orientation, and religion. See department chair.

Impact Statement: The reinstatement of POLS 310 and POLS 324 should have no negative impact on the Political Science major, minor, or on university requirements. In terms of impact on the Political Science department, both classes have been offered as special topics courses in the past two academic years (see Table 1). For this reason, we do not anticipate these courses adding any additional staffing or resource burdens to the faculty in the department. Further, while Giovanni Pleites-Hernandez will be primarily responsible for teaching these courses, he is not the only faculty member able to deliver them. For example, Mark Gibney could teach POLS 310: The Politics and Policy of Immigration, as he teaches a course on Immigration Law and has expertise in this area. Similarly, POLS 324: The Politics of Marginalization could also be offered by the other American politics faculty in the department, Rob Shrode and Ashley Moraguez.

Neither of these courses will be a required course for the major, as seen in Table 2. Instead, they will be offered as elective courses from which students can choose to complete their elective credits in Political Science, which make up the bulk of our major & minor requirements. Further, Table 3 displays the learning objectives in both courses, which are consistent with the department's SLO that students will learn the defining concepts and theories political scientists use to study and explain political phenomena.

In terms of the impact on students and the departmental curriculum, we expect little negative impact here, as well. Both courses proposed to be reinstated are elective courses that reflect evolving student interests in these fields. The courses have enrolled well in the past (see Table 1), and we believe they will continue to do so, especially now that Giovanni Pleites-Hernandez is well-known by the students. We also believe that reinstating these courses will allow us to deliver the department's curriculum more fully and to address shortcomings we've experienced from recent retirements. We have intentionally placed "See department chair" in the course descriptions for the scheduling of these courses to avoid misleading students on when and how often they will be offered. While our intention is to offer these courses every other academic year, it is our experience that this is not always possible, due to faculty release time, medical and family leaves, professional development leaves, Fulbright awards, and faculty interest in teaching Special Topics courses on pressing political issues. Since

neither of these courses are required for the Political Science major, we do not believe this will pose any adverse effects for student scheduling/planning.

Finally, these courses should only have a positive effect on the department's ability to contribute to university programs and the Liberal Arts Core. Both courses have been approved as DI courses. In addition, both courses will also be offered as electives in the Human Rights Studies minor. As such, we believe these course reinstatements will benefit students both within and outside our department

Table 1: Special Topics Courses to be Reinstated in the Course Catalog

Course	Last offered	Enrollments	Designations
310: The Politics and Policy of Immigration	Fall 2020	14/15	DI
324: The Politics of Marginalization	Spring 2021	12/20	DI

Table 2: Course Details & Resources Implications

Course	Role in Major	Format	Size	Class/Contact/Workload Hrs	Space/Material Needs	UNC CNS
310: The Politics and Policy of Immigration	Elective; not required	Seminar	20	4	None	NA
324: The Politics of Marginalization	Elective; not required	Seminar	20	4	None	NA

Table 3: Course Coverage and SLOs

Course	Faculty	Student Learning Objectives
310: The Politics and Policy of Immigration	Pleites-Hernandez (primary); Gibney	<p>After this class, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the historical development of immigration policy in the U.S. 2. Describe the roles that different political actors play in the development of immigration policy. 3. Critically engage with peer-refereed publications. 4. Describe the extent to which the government is responsive to the interests of the American people. 5. Discuss contemporary issues in the study of immigration policy and politics.
324: Politics of Marginalization	Pleites-Hernandez (primary); Shrode; Moraguez	<p>After this class, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the different ways in which political representation has been conceptualized and studied in political science. 2. Describe some of the ways in which individuals are marginalized in American politics and the consequences of being marginalized. 3. Critically engage with peer-refereed publications. 4. Describe the extent to which the government is responsive to the interests of the American people and what accounts for inequities in that responsiveness.

Rationale: The changes proposed in this document are primarily motivated by staffing changes in the Political Science Department and evolving faculty and student interests. In the past two years, the Political Science Department has hired Giovanni Pleites-Hernandez and Rob Shrode, whose combined expertise can help the department fill some of the curricular holes we have experienced since the retirements of Dolly Jenkins-Mullen and Dwight Mullen. As such, we would like to reinstate two courses that the department used to but has not been able to offer in many years. In addition to reinstating these courses, we have proposed updates to their titles and descriptions to more accurately reflect the expertise of the new faculty who will be primarily responsible for teaching them and the evolution in the approaches to these topics in the field of Political Science.