

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: International Politics Minor

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Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

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Specifics (see instructions):

Current Program:

International Politics Minor (18 credits)

Required Courses (6 credits)

POLI 260 (Comparative Politics)
POLI 280 (International Relations)

Or

POLI 281 (International Relations w/
Writing focus)

Language Requirement:

Courses or proficiency through the 302 level in one language other than the student's native language.

Elective Courses (12 credits)

Students must take four additional POLI courses (12 credits) in comparative politics or international relations. These courses are those in the POLI course number ranges 360-399 and 460-499.

At least one of the four elective courses must be a 400-level course.

Program Stipulations

No grade lower than a "C" in any course may count toward this minor.

Students majoring in political science may count no more than 3 courses from the POLI major toward this minor.

Proposed Program

World Politics Minor (18 credits)

Required Courses (6 credits)

POLI 260 (Comparative Politics)
POLI 280 (International Relations)

Or

POLI 281 (International Relations w/
Writing focus)

Language Requirement

One language through the second year (202 level).

Elective Courses (12-credits):

Students must take four additional POLI courses (12 credits) in comparative politics or international relations. These courses are those in the POLI course number ranges 360-399 and 460-499 **as well as any course listed below:**

POLI 310 - Political Theories of Democracy

POLI 337 - Comparative Justice

POLI 431 - Modern National Security Law

POLI 437 - International Human Rights Law

At least one of the four elective courses must be a 400-level course.

Program Stipulations

NO CHANGES

Rationale:

The Political Science Department was urged by external reviewers in its last APR to review and revise its minor programs. The proposed changes to the International Politics minor are the result of this review.

a) Name change request: The program name, “International Politics,” flags a minor that focuses narrowly on relations between sovereign states. The proposed name, “World Politics,” flags a minor of greater scope that would include politics and relations among a vast array of non-state actors as well.

Proposed change in language requirement: The proposed change to the language requirement from 302-level language proficiency to 202-level would bring this requirement more in line as a minor program with the one recently adopted for the Global Studies major (proficiency to the 301-level). It is hoped that the change will make this minor attractive to greater numbers of students.

Proposed Change in elective options: The proposed change adds courses beyond those captured in the course number ranges currently specified. The topics covered in these additional courses certainly fit within the purview of a “World Politics” minor.

b) The proposed changes will not have a negative impact on students who have declared minors in “International Politics.” These students may elect to change their minors to “World Politics,” if the relaxed language requirement works to their advantage.

