

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

CURRICULUM TRANSMITTAL COVER PAGE

Department: History, Philosophy, and Political Science

Date: Sept. 14, 2017

Title Of Course Or Degree: Political Science Concentration

Change(s) Initiated: (Please check)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closing of Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Degree or Certificate Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closing of Certificate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change in Degree Requirements (adding concentration) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Certificate Proposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Pre/Co-Requisite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Proposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Designation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Description |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New 82 Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Title, Numbers Credit and/or Hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Academic Policy |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways Submission: |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life and Physical Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Math and Quantitative Reasoning |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> A. World Cultures and Global Issues |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> B. U.S. Experience in its Diversity |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Creative Expression |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Individual and Society |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Scientific World |

Other (please describe): _____

PLEASE ATTACH MATERIAL TO ILLUSTRATE AND EXPLAIN ALL CHANGES

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Action by Department and/or Departmental Committee, if required:

Date Approved: 9/14/17 Signature, Committee Chairperson: Mce Bee

I have reviewed the attached material/proposal

Signature, Department Chairperson: _____

*Director, Liberal
Arts*

M. C. Bee
Cindy Greenberg

Proposal for a Liberal Arts Concentration in Political Science

Rationale for a political science concentration: Kingsborough's student body is incredibly diverse, with many students having links to other countries through their own or their families' experience. A political science concentration would help students use their lived experience as a starting point for growing their knowledge of the world, its power structures, and their future place within it. The role of power and politics in the daily lives of students and their communities cannot be ignored, and a political science concentration would give students the knowledge and tools they need for civic engagement and pursuing social justice at the local, state, national, and global levels.

The political science concentration would support the College's Mission Statement in several ways, most notably in promoting "civic engagement, global awareness, civility, and respect for diversity."¹ Global awareness is at the heart of all of the political science courses offered at Kingsborough, whether in an international relations or comparative politics course that looks explicitly at different countries, or in a state and local politics class that contextualizes local politics in the globalized economy. Civility is practiced in every political science course as students learn to debate and support their arguments with solid evidence while respecting their classmates' rights to different opinions. Respect for diversity is explored theoretically and practically in several courses, including Introduction to Political Theory, Women in Politics, and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Furthermore, all political science courses at Kingsborough are Civic Engagement certified courses, so students taking multiple political science courses for the concentration would go above and beyond the Civic Engagement requirement.

Political Science is a rigorous discipline but is also interdisciplinary by its nature which makes it a natural fit for a concentration in Liberal Arts. A Liberal Arts Concentration in Political Science would seek to give students broad exposure to the discipline of Political Science itself as well as related fields of history, philosophy, and anthropology, aligning with both Liberal Arts and political science-specific learning outcomes to give students a solid foundation for further studies in their future academic careers.

Another benefit of a political science concentration is that it overcomes the limitations that a political science major would impose- a major would require a high degree of specialization at a very early stage, and a larger amount of coursework. More coursework could slow progress towards graduation or limit the number of students who could actually complete the program, while the early specialization could close students off to other related fields before they know they might be interested in them. A political science concentration, however, would allow students to get a solid base in political science, while still also getting the best part of the Liberal

¹ "Mission Statement" Kingsborough Community College Catalog, 2016-2017. http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/sub-registration/Documents/2017/2016-2017_Catalog.pdf

Arts major- broad exposure to many related disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. While the concentration is designed to support transfer into a political science BA program, it could also be used by students wishing to pursue related majors at more specialized programs, such as political sociology, political psychology, and international political economy.

Transferability

A political science concentration would help students begin to prepare for a career in government service or international relations, while also serving as a great foundation for students interested in pursuing a 4 year degree and law or graduate school thereafter. The Political Science concentration would be beneficial to those students who would continue on to a 4 year degree, as many of the senior colleges where Kingsborough students continue their education have political science majors, minors, and concentrations, such as those at Brooklyn College, Baruch College, Hunter College, City College, and Queens College. Seven political science courses are already Pathways approved with more (e.g. POL 5900: International Relations) in the pipeline. Such courses automatically qualify across CUNY for general education credit. In addition, through articulation agreements with Metropolitan College of New York, The New School, and Berkeley College, all of the Department's political science courses transfer for credit. Students wishing to transfer into Baruch College's School of Public Affairs also receive credit for the following political science courses: American Government (POL 5100), Principles of Public Administration (POL 6100), State and Local Government (POL 5300), and City Politics (POL 5600). A Kingsborough student taking POL 5100, POL 5900, and POL 5600 for the Kingsborough Political Science Concentration would simultaneously be completing the three recommended gateway courses for a political science major at any of CUNY's bachelor-granting colleges.² Specific alignment of the concentration with some of the most commonly-transferred to schools for Kingsborough students are included in Appendix I.

Like all of the existing Liberal Arts concentrations, a political science concentration would be designed to increase student learning and student success, by providing a clear and beneficial path for a course of study that would reflect well on future transfer and scholarship applications; this aligns with the College's strategic outcome to improve communication with students about course sequences in their majors, by giving a guiding structure to students who are interested in a political science major when they transfer to a Bachelor's program.

While a general Liberal Arts major helps develop the general education skills that would be useful for future lawyers, policy analysts, and diplomats, none of the existing concentrations in Liberal Arts address these career paths directly. A concentration in political science would not only give interested students the knowledge they need to pursue higher-level political science courses in their bachelor's degrees, it would show the student's commitment, interests, and

² Gateway Courses Into Majors <http://www2.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/undergraduate-studies/pathways/majors/#political-science>

knowledge of political science to prospective admissions officers and scholarship award committee members.

Proposed Structure: The existing political science course listings lend themselves very well to a concentration, as each course can be taken without prerequisites or specific sequencing, allowing for maximum flexibility for students. The concentration is designed to enable students to fulfill their Liberal Arts major requirements in ways that reflect and deepen their interests in political science, and political science concentration students in the Liberal Arts major will find that their other Liberal Arts coursework combines extremely well with their interests in political science.³ To qualify for this concentration, students will take political science-related courses to fulfill Liberal Arts Major Requirements, as well as at least one elective in Global Politics. The structure of the concentration would be:

	CURRENT	
ADD	A.A. LIBERAL ARTS - Political Science Concentration	
	Total credits: 60	
	<u>COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS</u>	CREDITS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of the CUNY Skills Assessment tests in Reading and Writing, and ACCUPLACER CUNY Assessment Test in Math with passing examination scores, unless otherwise exempt, or developmental courses may be required. 	
	<u>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCES</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) Civic Engagement experiences satisfied by Civic Engagement Certified or Civic Engagement Component courses or approved outside activity. 	
	<u>WRITING INTENSIVE REQUIREMENT</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Writing Intensive course in any discipline is required. Participation in a Learning Community that includes ENG 1200 or 2400 also satisfies this requirement. 	
	<u>REQUIRED CORE: (4 Courses, 12 Credits):</u>	12
	When Required Core courses are specified for a category, they are strongly suggested and/or required for the major.	3
	ENG 1200 – English Composition I	3
	ENG 2400 – English Composition II	3
	± Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning	3
	± Life and Physical Sciences	

³ In fact, this proposed concentration is very similar in shape and purpose to the Liberal Arts Political Science Concentration at LaGuardia Community College, the curriculum outline for which can be found at http://www.laguardia.edu/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Divisions/AA/Pathways/List_Summaries/Degrees/Humanities/Political-Science-Degree.pdf

	<u>FLEXIBLE CORE: (6 Courses, 18 Credits):</u>	18
	When Flexible Core courses are specified for a category, they are strongly suggested and/or required for the major.	
	One course from each Group A to E and one (1) additional course from any group	
	A. World Cultures and Global Issues	
	B. U.S. Experience In Its Diversity	
	C. Creative Expression	
	D. Individual & Society	
	± E. Scientific World	
	No more than two course can be selected from the same discipline	
	<u>MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: (9 Courses, 27 Credits):</u>	
	No more than four (4) of the following nine (9) courses may also satisfy a CUNY Common Flexible Core requirement:	
	Art or	3
	Media and Film Studies or	
	Music or	
	Theatre	
	Speech	3
	Literature	3
	Philosophy	3
ADD	PHI 6700 - Political Philosophy or	
ADD	PHI 7900 - Global Ethics	
	American Politics	3
ADD	POL 5100 - American Government and Politics	
	American History	3
ADD	HIS 1100 - American Civilization I or	
ADD	HIS 1200 - American Civilization II or	
ADD	HIS 1900 - History of U.S. Civil Rights and the Movements it Inspired	
	World History or	3
	Anthropology	
ADD	HIS 6500 - Social Unrest and Revolution in Modern Times or	
ADD	ANT 3800 - Human Rights	
	Psychology	3
	Sociology	3
	<u>ELECTIVES:</u> 3 – 15 credits sufficient to total 60 credits for the degree.	
ADD	Students are required to select a Global Politics course (3 credits), POL 5900 - International Relations or POL 5200 - Comparative	

	Government is recommended. If additional elective credits are available, consultation with the concentration advisor is highly recommended.	
	± Note: You may elect to take a math or science course that is 4 credits or more. TAP counts 3 credits towards the requirement and the 4th credit as elective.	
	<u>STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES</u>	
	Students will be exposed to the central issues and the range of subfields of political science.	
	Students will develop critical thinking in order to form opinions on political issues which they will also be able to analyze, critique, and debate.	
	Students will be able to formulate cohesive positions about political issues using rigorous quantitative and qualitative data to support their arguments	
	Students will be able to use evidence from related disciplines to support their arguments	

	PROPOSED	
	A.A. LIBERAL ARTS - Political Science Concentration	
	Total credits: 60	
	<u>COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS</u>	CREDITS
	• Successful completion of the CUNY Skills Assessment tests in Reading and Writing, and ACCUPLACER CUNY Assessment Test in Math with passing examination scores, unless otherwise exempt, or developmental courses may be required.	
	<u>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCES</u>	
	• Two (2) Civic Engagement experiences satisfied by Civic Engagement Certified or Civic Engagement Component courses or approved outside activity.	
	<u>WRITING INTENSIVE REQUIREMENT</u>	
	• One (1) Writing Intensive course in any discipline is required. Participation in a Learning Community that includes ENG 1200 or 2400 also satisfies this requirement.	

<u>REQUIRED CORE: (4 Courses, 12 Credits):</u>	12
When Required Core courses are specified for a category, they are strongly suggested and/or required for the major.	3
ENG 1200 – English Composition I	3
ENG 2400 – English Composition II	3
± Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning	3
± Life and Physical Sciences	
<u>FLEXIBLE CORE: (6 Courses, 18 Credits):</u>	18
When Flexible Core courses are specified for a category, they are strongly suggested and/or required for the major.	
One course from each Group A to E and one (1) additional course from any group	
A. World Cultures and Global Issues	
B. U.S. Experience In Its Diversity	
C. Creative Expression	
D. Individual & Society	
± E. Scientific World	
No more than two course can be selected from the same discipline	
<u>MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: (9 Courses, 27 Credits):</u>	
No more than four (4) of the following nine (9) courses may also satisfy a CUNY Common Flexible Core requirement:	
Art or	3
Media and Film Studies or	
Music or	
Theatre	
Speech	3
Literature	3
Philosophy	3
PHI 6700 - Political Philosophy or	
PHI 7900 - Global Ethics	
American Politics	3
POL 5100 - American Government and Politics	
American History	3
HIS 1100 - American Civilization I or	
HIS 1200 - American Civilization II or	
HIS 1900 - History of U.S. Civil Rights and the Movements it Inspired	
World History or	3
Anthropology	
HIS 6500 - Social Unrest and Revolution in Modern Times or	

ANT 3800 - Human Rights		
Psychology		3
Sociology		3
<u>ELECTIVES:</u> 3 – 15 credits sufficient to total 60 credits for the degree.		
Students are required to select a Global Politics course (3 credits), POL 5900 - International Relations or POL 5200 - Comparative Government is recommended. If additional elective credits are available, consultation with the concentration advisor is highly recommended.		
± Note: You may elect to take a math or science course that is 4 credits or more. TAP counts 3 credits towards the requirement and the 4th credit as elective.		
<u>STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES</u>		
Students will be exposed to the central issues and the range of subfields of political science.		
Students will develop critical thinking in order to form opinions on political issues which they will also be able to analyze, critique, and debate.		
Students will be able to formulate cohesive positions about political issues using rigorous quantitative and qualitative data to support their arguments		
Students will be able to use evidence from related disciplines to support their arguments		

Learning Outcomes and Assessment

All of the courses in the political science concentration will help students achieve the general Liberal Arts learning outcomes, such as think critically, communicate effectively, grasp the significance of the historical process, comprehend methods and products of scientific inquiry, and develop an appreciation for the traditions and practices of world cultures, but will also help students achieve political science-specific learning outcomes. The Political Science Concentration-specific learning outcomes included above were developed based on a review of popular transfer college political science majors,⁴ and are mapped to the concentration courses as follows:

⁴ Please see Appendix II for excerpts of political science learning outcomes from Brooklyn College, Baruch College, and John Jay College.

- Students will be exposed to the central issues and the range of subfields of political science. (POL 5100, PHI 6700, Global Politics electives: POL 5900 and 5200)
- Students will develop critical thinking in order to form opinions on political issues which they will also be able to analyze, critique, and debate. (PHI 6700, PHI 7900, POL 5100)
- Students will be able to formulate cohesive positions about political issues using rigorous quantitative and qualitative data to support their arguments. (POL 5100, ANT 3800, Global Politics electives: POL 5900 and 5200)
- Students will be able to use evidence from related disciplines to support their arguments. (HIS 1100, HIS 1200, HIS 6500, ANT 3800)

The Department will assign a political science faculty member to direct the concentration. Responsibilities will include academic advisement to interested students, development of concentration outcomes and assessment of those outcomes based on faculty input and student experience.

Program outcomes would reflect student needs and the desirability of improving transfer. Instruments such as surveys administered to students enrolled in the concentration and feedback forms distributed at talks and events hosted by the Department and related to the concentration would be among the means of assessing the success of the program. The concentration director would also be asked to track enrollment trends in the concentration and political science courses generally to assess the degree to which offerings and their scheduling are meeting student needs. Appropriate outcomes would include increasing enrollment in political science courses at KCC as well as improving transfer into four-year colleges and programs related to the concentration; the director of the concentration will be responsible for tracking outcomes for transfers, majors, and completion of concentration graduates.

Appendix I: Degree Requirements at Most Frequently-Transferred to Schools

1. At Brooklyn College⁵, this concentration would allow students to complete the 1000-level course required (POL 51 and POL 59 would both fulfill this requirement) while also giving students the solid foundation needed for success in the upper-level political science courses they would be required to take as political science majors at Brooklyn College.
2. At Baruch College⁶, this concentration would allow students to complete the introduction to American Government required (POL 51 for Baruch's POL 1101); additional concentration courses could be accepted as 2000-level courses that fulfill the major requirements (POL 52 for Baruch's POL 2260, POL 59 for Baruch's POL 2240, POL 53 for Baruch's POL 2220) while also providing the solid foundation needed for success in the upper-level political science courses they would be required to take as political science majors at Baruch College.
3. At John Jay College⁷, this concentration would allow students to complete the introduction to American Government required (POL 51 for John Jay's GOV 101); additional concentration courses could be accepted as required 200-level courses (POL 52 for John Jay's POL 257, POL 59 for John Jay's POL 260, POL 53 for John Jay's POL 206, POL 50 for John Jay's POL 270, POL 54 for John Jay's POL 220) while also providing the solid foundation needed for success in the upper-level political science courses they would be required to take as political science majors at John Jay College.

⁵ Brooklyn College Major Requirements from http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/socialsciences/undergraduate/polisci/majors_details.php?major=088&div=U&dept_code=72&dept_id=94&mode=data. Course listing available at http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/socialsciences/undergraduate/polisci/courses_u.php?schn&div=U&disc=POLS.&department=72&dept_id=94

⁶ Baruch College Major Requirements from <https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/confluence/display/undergraduatebulletinfall16spring17/Department+of+Political+Science#DepartmentofPoliticalScience-major>

⁷ John Jay College Major Requirements from <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/political-science-ba>

Appendix II: Political Science Learning Outcomes at Most Frequently-Transferred to Schools

Brooklyn College Political Science Learning Outcomes⁸

“The mission of the Political Science Department is to help our students develop an understanding of the structures and operations of politics and power so that they can become engaged and critical thinkers. . . Through our intellectually diverse curriculum students acquire the research, writing, and reading skills necessary to think and act in the world.”

Baruch College Political Science Learning Outcomes⁹

“Learning goals for majors: By the time that students have completed the major, they will be able to

1. Gain a broad exposure to central issues of political science, which include:
 - (a) the ethical problems attendant to the exercise of power;
 - (b) the history of important political ideas, such as "liberty," "justice," "community," and "equality";
 - (c) the impact of historical, economic, and social forces on the operation of politics;
 - (d) the functioning and distinctive features of the US political system;
 - (e) the diversity of political systems found among nations and the significance of these differences;
 - (f) the interaction among international actors and the causes of war and peace.
2. Apply a key concept, theory, or method of political science to analyze a political question.
3. Articulate a thesis regarding a political question.
4. Consider alternative perspectives regarding a political question.
5. Evaluate evidence regarding a political question.
6. Gather appropriate evidence pertinent to a political question.
7. Craft a well-structured written or oral argument regarding a political question.
8. Develop a greater sense of civic duty to participate in public affairs.”

John Jay College Political Science Learning Outcomes¹⁰

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● “Initiate, develop, and present independent research. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Write effectively, engage in intellectually grounded debate, and form and express cogent arguments. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop skills in critical thinking in order to become knowledgeable citizens capable of reasoned judgments on contemporary political issues. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demonstrate knowledge of the major subfields of political science.” |

⁸ http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_registrar/2017-2018_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf p400

⁹ http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/academics/political_science/politicalscienceweissman.htm

¹⁰ <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/political-science-ba>