Present: Dave Ballantine (CLAS), Kate Cady (COMS), Amanda Durik (PSYC), Jeremy Groves (ECON), Frances Jaeger (FL&L), Joel Stafstrom (BIOS)

Suzanne Hogan (CLAS)

Absent: Omar Chmaissem (PHYS)

A. Action on Minutes

Minutes from the #2 meeting on September 10, 2014, have been approved electronically and forwarded to the catalog editor.

B. Miscellaneous

Ballantine will meet with the Curricular Deans on Friday, September 12th. The D in transfer and multiple repeat policies are on the agenda, so he will update us at next week’s meeting.

C. Curriculum – Old Business

None

D. Curriculum – New Business

Department of Computer Science

The committee approved revisions to CSCI 566 and CSCI 641 as well as the required courses for the M.S. degree. New course proposals for CSCI 531 and CSCI 532 were TABLED; the committee didn’t feel they could evaluate the courses due to a lack of content in the proposals.

Department of Economics

The following new courses were approved: ECON 371, ECON 372, ECON 373, ECON 374, ECON 375, and ECON 647.

Environmental Sciences

Revisions to ENVS 302 were approved. The committee also approved revisions to Emphasis 2 and Emphasis 3.
Department of Political Science

Revisions for POLS 690 and POLS 691 were approved. The committee also approved revisions to the M.A. requirements, and to several areas of the Ph.D. program.

Division of Statistics

The new course proposal for STAT 550 was approved.

Tabled:

CSCI New Course Proposal: CSCI 531
New Course Proposal: CSCI 532
Department of Computer Science

Course Revision Page 209, 2014-2015 Graduate Catalog

CSCI 566. DATABASES (4). Software development… …PRQ CRQ: Admission to the graduate program in computer science CSCI 689 or consent of department.

Rationale: CSCI 566 has laboratory work in the form of programming assignments in C/C++, and so, requiring CSCI 689 – Object-Oriented Design and Programming as a CRQ better prepares our students for success.

Notification: Not required for this change.

Course Revision Page 209, 2014-2015 Graduate Catalog

CSCI 631. NETWORK APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMING (3). Principles used… …PRQ: Admission to the graduate program in computer science CSCI 689 or consent of department.

Rationale: CSCI 631 has extensive laboratory work in the form of programming assignments in C/C++, and so, requiring CSCI 689 – Object-Oriented Design and Programming as a PRQ better prepares our students for success.

Notification: Not required for this change.

Other Catalog Changes Page 208, 2014-2015 Graduate Catalog

Master of Science in Computer Science
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Required Courses (15-17)

CSCI 640 – Data Structures in Assembly Language (3)
CSCI 689 – Object-Oriented Design and Programming (3)

Students must complete two two-semester areas of study, as indicated below (12-14):
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Rationale: The department is changing the course that is required of all of our graduate students from CSCI 640 to CSCI 689 to reflect the change in the labor market. CSCI 640 is based on mainframe technology and CSCI 689 is based on object-oriented programming, which is much more prevalent.

Notification: This program is exclusive to the Department of Computer Science. Notification is not required.

Department of Economics

New Course Page 241, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog
ECON 371. HEALTH ECONOMICS (3). Applies microeconomic analysis to the behavior of individuals, health care providers, managed care organizations, insurers, pharmaceutical firms, and government to strengthen students understanding of the health care system and health care policy. PRQ: ECON 260.

Rationale: This class has been taught at NIU for the past 5-10 years using the department’s “topics” class. It has been very successful with students, and deserves to be listed separately. As the department (and NIU) reaches out to foreign universities such as China and others for undergraduate recruitment, we need to be competitive in our course listings. There are similar classes being taught in UIC, Iowa State, UW-Milwaukee, etc.

Non-Duplication: The School of Public Health was notified with regard to this course and has indicated there is no significant duplication with any of their current course offerings.

New Course  Page 241, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog

CIP Code: 45.0601

ECON 372. INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND POVERTY (3). An introductory survey of income distribution and poverty, with emphasis on conditions in the United States, past and present. Understanding the link between inequality and the performance of an economy is an integral part of understanding the very process of development and the effects of different policies. This course is designed to introduce you to the complex issues facing policy makers. PRQ: ECON 260.

Rationale: This class has been taught at NIU for the past 5-10 years using the department’s “topics” class. It has been very successful with students, and deserves to be listed separately. As the department (and NIU) reaches out to foreign universities such as China and others for undergraduate recruitment, we need to be competitive in our course listings. There are similar classes being taught in UIC, Iowa State, UW-Milwaukee, etc.

Non-Duplication: The Department of Sociology was notified with regard to this course and has indicated there is no significant duplication with any of their current course offerings.

New Course  Page 241, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog

CIP Code: 45.0601

ECON 373. ECONOMICS AND EQUITY (3). A study of Economics with a heart, a normative approach. It covers concepts in economics leading to understanding of equity, efficiency, and welfare. Students will be able to understand how different forms of economic activities, policies, and methods of government resource allocations will be affecting the well being of different groups of people and businesses. Income and resource distribution in society, as well as understanding of poverty, discrimination, equity, and efficiency effects of government programs will be explored. PRQ: ECON 260 and ECON 261.
Rationale: This class has been taught at NIU for the past 5-10 years using the department’s “topics” class. It has been have been very successful with students, and deserves to be listed separately. As the department (and NIU) reaches out to foreign universities such as China and others for undergraduate recruitment, we need to be competitive in our course listings. There are similar classes being taught in UIC, Iowa State, UW-Milwaukee, etc.

Non-Duplication: The Department of Public Administration was notified with regard to this course and has indicated there is no significant duplication with any of their current course offerings.

New Course

Page 241, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog

CIP Code: 45.0601

ECON 374. GAME THEORY (3). Game theory concerns an analysis of decision makers who are aware that their actions and any assumptions made by others about their actions, will affect the actions of those others. In the last 25 years, game theory has become the core of economic theory, both micro and macro. This course will provide students with an introduction to the tools of game theory, and show the usefulness of this approach by analyzing several examples. PRQ: ECON 260.

Rationale: This class has been taught at NIU for the past 5-10 years using the department’s “topics” class. It has been have been very successful with students, and deserves to be listed separately. As the department (and NIU) reaches out to foreign universities such as China and others for undergraduate recruitment, we need to be competitive in our course listings. There are similar classes being taught in UIC, Iowa State, UW-Milwaukee, etc.

Non-Duplication: The Department of Mathematical Sciences was notified with regard to this course and has indicated there is no significant duplication with any of their current course offerings.

New Course

Page 241, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog

CIP Code: 45.0601

ECON 375. INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS (3). Industrial Organization (IO) is the field of economics that studies the structure of markets and the behavior of firms. This class will cover both the theoretical aspects of IO as well as empirical examples that come from “real life” business practice. Another focus will be industry policies and regulations. Some of the topics discussed are: Theory of the firm and market structure, monopoly practice, oligopoly and collusion, entry deterrence, product differentiation, advertising, and industry regulation. PRQ: ECON 260.

Rationale: This class has been taught at NIU for the past 5-10 years using the department’s “topics” class. It has been have been very successful with students, and deserves to be listed separately. As the department (and NIU) reaches out to foreign universities such as China and others for undergraduate recruitment, we need to be competitive in our course listings. There are similar classes being taught in UIC, Iowa State, UW-Milwaukee, etc.
Non-Duplication: The Department of Operations Management and Information Systems was notified with regard to this course and has indicated there is no significant duplication with any of their current course offerings.

New Course

CIP Code: 45.0601

ECON 647. OPTIMAL PORTFOLIO CHOICE (3). A survey of optimal dynamic portfolio choice in discrete and continuous time using analytical and numerical techniques. Topics include dynamic programming, martingale methods, robustness, and the Malliavin Calculus. PRQ: CSCI 689 and ECON 591; or consent of department.

Rationale: This course is proposed in collaboration with the Department of Finance, the Department of Computer Science, and the Division of Statistics; as part of a new emphasis in Financial Engineering in the Finance Department’s Master of Science in Financial Risk Management.

Non-Duplication: No departments have been formally contacted. As described above, we have developed the course in collaboration with the Department of Finance, the Department of Computer Science, and the Division of Statistics.

Environmental Sciences

Course Revision

ENVS 302. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE II: BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS (3). Introduction to the biological… …PRQ: ENVS 301.

Rationale: After offering ENVS 302 for many years, it was determined that ENVS 301 that covers topics in geology and geography is not needed as a PRQ for ENVS 302. Removing the PRQ will allow students more flexibility in their course scheduling.

Notification: This change does not require notification.

Other Catalog Change

Major in Environmental Studies (B.A. or B.S.)

Emphasis 2. Energy Studies (34)

Requirements outside Environmental Studies (13)

ENVS 315 – Geography of Energy (3)

OR GEOG 315X – Geography of Energy (3)

GEOG 453 – Environmental Management (3)

ISYE 421 – Introduction to Green Engineering (3)

PHYS 210 – General Physics I (4)
OR PHYS 253 - Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics (4)  
TECH 484 – Energy Management (3)

Select three of the following technology/engineering-based courses (9)  
ISYE 421 – Introduction to Green Engineering (3)  
ISYE 453 – Integrated Product and Process Design (3)

Select three of the following applications and natural science-based courses (9)  
BIOS 106 – Environmental Biology (3)  
ENVS 315 – Geography of Energy (3)  
OR GEOG 315X – Geography of Energy (3)
GEOG 256 – Maps and Mapping (3)

Rationale: With the departure of Dave Murphy (joint appointment faculty with ENVS and GEOG), there isn’t anybody on campus who can teach ENVS 315. In the future there might be a new faculty member who can teach this course, so we don’t want to delete the course. Instead, it will be an elective for the Energy Studies emphasis. To replace the course, we are adding ISYE 421 to the required courses for this emphasis. This course is taught by a ENVS/ISYE joint appointment faculty member and is offered every year.

Notification: ISYE 421 is already part of the program; it’s just being moved within the outside requirements area. No notification is required.

Other Catalog Change  
Page 254, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog  

Emphasis 6. Water Sciences (37-41)

Rationale: Alumni and current students of this emphasis have stated that the title of the emphasis was confusing to potential employers and graduate schools. They had suggested “water sciences” to be more specific that they had the science background for employment. The curriculum will remain the same.

Notification: Emphasis is exclusive to the ENVS program. Notification is not required.

Other Catalog Change  
Page 390, 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog  

Vocal music  
   music education, 342  
   performance, 342

Water Sciences, emphasis, 254
Withdrawal, 9

Rationale: Change to the title of the emphasis.
Notification: Emphasis is exclusive to the ENVS program. Notification is not required.

Department of Political Science

Course Revision Page 266, 2014-15 Graduate Catalog

POLS 690. POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (1-3). Supervised research... ...Master’s students may use a maximum of 9 semester hours toward degree completion repeat to a maximum of 18 semester hours. Doctoral students may use a maximum of 39 semester hours toward degree completion repeat to a maximum of 36 semester hours. S/U grading. PRQ: Consent of department.

Rationale: There is discrepancy in the Department’s language in the Graduate Catalog between what appears under Course Requirements for both the PhD and MA program and what appears under the course description for the course POLS 690. The changes below are intended to clarify the department’s policy.

Notification: Notification is not required for this change.

Course Revision Page 266, 2014-15 Graduate Catalog

POLS 691. TEACHING OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (1-3). Orientation to and supervised teaching of political science. Required of all doctoral students for 1 semester hour and may not be repeated except by students who are teaching assistants. Teaching assistants... ...PRQ: Consent of department.

Rationale: In the last catalog year the department created a new course (POLS 692), which is a one-credit course required of all PhD students, which focuses on issues of syllabus development and the unique challenges of teaching undergraduate political science courses. Previously POLS 691 had been serving dual purposes. First, it was used for graduate assistants who wish to earn course credit for developing an independent undergraduate course, under the direction of a member of the faculty. Second, it was used for the purposes of the new POLS 692 course. Having the course serve two purposes was causing problems, because some students were fulfilling the requirement of taking one-credit of POLS 691 without ever taking the one-credit seminar specific to the challenges of undergraduate education in political science. When the department created and began to require POLS 692 for one-credit we simply forgot to remove from the Catalog the stipulation that POLS 691 was required. The change above rectifies this oversight.

Notification: Notification is not required for this change.

Other Catalog Change Page 263, 2014-15 Graduate Catalog

Master of Arts in Political Science

Requirements
Of the minimum… …A maximum of 3 9 semester hours of POLS 690 may be counted toward the 36 semester hour minimum. No more than 3 semester… …applied to the degree.

Rationale: The change from 3 to 9 semester hours of POLS 690 is prompted by the Department’s desire to have students spend more time working in a collaborative manner with faculty on original research.

Students may apply 3 semester hours to the writing of a thesis. If a thesis is to be written the student must register for a minimum of three credits of POLS 699, Thesis (1-6). Students not writing… … all course work, or during the last term of study.

Rationale: The use of the word “may” in the sentence we wish to delete creates the impression that a student “may not” need to take POLS 699 if they choose the Thesis option for degree completion. The insertion is intended to clarify the policy that a minimum three credits of POLS 699 is required of students completing the MA using the Master’s thesis option.

Other Catalog Change

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

Course Requirements

The Department of Political Science… … These hours may include no more than 39 semester hours of credit… …and Dissertation, or any combination thereof.

Rationale: The department has increasingly been admitting students directly into the PhD program from Bachelor degree programs. It will benefit these students, who do not transfer in any graduate credits, to be able to take more than 30 hours of supervised research or teaching. The course POLS 690 (substantive course description provided below), which provides student and faculty interaction on research projects is the course these students need the most. POLS 691 is for supervised teaching is used when students are creating their own course for the first time, is taken the semester before the course is offered and, generally, is not repeated for more than 3 credit hours. POLS 799A is the course for dissertation preparation.

In completing the remaining required 60 51 semester hours of… … POLS 602 with the approval of their advisory the graduate committee.

Rationale: The first change in the above paragraph is contingent on the modification first proposed regarding the number of supervised research and teaching credits students are allowed to use toward degree completion. The second change occurs because the department is looking to streamline bureaucratic processes and forego the use of student “Advisory Committees.” The primary advising responsibility for PhD students has always fallen on faculty in the student’s first field of study. Three of these members of the faculty, when there have been three in a subfield; make up the “advisory
committee.” The problem has been that faculty turnover and attrition causes students unnecessarily to get confused and to scramble to recreate an advisory committee. The exercise is superfluous as it is important for students to, simply, get advice from the remaining faculty in their first field of study. The Department also has a Graduate Committee that is made up of the department chair, the graduate director, and one member of the faculty from each of the subfields of political science the department offers as specializations. When it comes to decisions about coursework, timing of candidacy exams, etc. the first field faculty is in the best position to provide the appropriate advice. If the matter involves some sort of academic standard we believe it is best for the Graduate Committee to act as a governing authority. Because the change in the above paragraph is roughly a matter of standards the proposed change in the language is indicating that the Graduate Committee and not the Advisory Committee (or first field faculty) will be responsible for the decision. Most of the catalogue changes below also deal with the elimination of the “Advisory Committee” and assigns these duties to either to the faculty in the student’s first field of study or the department’s Graduate Committee.

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The student must… … Doctoral students must take a minimum of three 600- or 700-level seminars in their first field and a minimum of two 600- or 700-level seminars in their second field. Students who take the minimum semester hours in either field may not count any independent study courses toward the minimum. No more than… … POLS 690 credit does not count toward the minimum… …faculty in a student’s first field of study advisory committee.

↓

Rationale: The first change above is the deletion of language that should have been deleted a few years ago. The Department no longer allows students to take undergraduate courses for graduate credit and consequently the language about a minimum number of 600 or 700-level courses is no longer required. The second change from “does not” to “cannot” is necessary to clarify the policy that POLS 690 credits cannot be used to fulfill subfield course requirements. The third change is prompted by the elimination of advisory committees and the streamlining of the advising process.

↓

Students will be expected to consult initially with an interim adviser, and subsequently with members of the faculty in their first field of study advisory committee, once these have been appointed, regarding a program of studies. Such consultation… … Registration for courses without the advisor’s approval of faculty in a student’s first field of study might lead to the accumulation of graduate… … admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.

↓

Rationale: Both changes are prompted by the elimination of advisory committees and the streamlining of the advising process.

↓

Teaching-Skill Requirement

All students in the Ph.D. program… … Exceptions are authorized only upon recommendation of the student’s committee and approval of the department graduate committee. The student seeking an exception should submit their request in writing to the department’s graduate director.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
#3 Meeting – September 17, 2014
Approved Attachments

Rationale: The deletion is prompted by the elimination of advisory committees. The process already required the approval of the graduate committee and that will stay the same. The addition is intended to provide clarification about how a student may petition for an exception.

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Language/Research-Tool Requirement

The student working toward a Ph.D. in political science must demonstrate an ability to make use of research tools by showing proficiency in using a foreign language for the purpose of research and/or qualitative or quantitative research tools. The choice of specific language/research tools will relate to the student’s fields of study, and will be made with the approval of the faculty in a student’s first field of study advisory committee. Proficiency in any foreign language is determined by the faculty in a student’s first field of study. Proficiency in any foreign language is determined by the faculty in a student’s first field of study, can be demonstrated in accordance with the procedures described in the section “Ph.D. Language and/or Research Tool Requirement” under “Requirements for Graduate Degrees” earlier in this catalog. This includes the possibility of demonstrating average proficiency in French, German, or Spanish through the reading courses indicated. In addition, with the approval of the appropriate faculty member of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, average proficiency in other languages can be demonstrated by passing a translation examination administered as part of the final examination in the fourth or later semester of study. Proficiency in a research tool is normally demonstrated by successfully completing designated courses with a grade of A or B. In certain cases, a student’s the department’s graduate committee may approve the use of a proficiency examination in lieu of course requirements for a research tool. Any one of… …language/research-tool requirement.

↓

Rationale: The first insertion is intended to clarify the standing policy that the department only allows the use of language proficiency, as a means of fulfilling the Language/Research Tool Requirement, if the increased language proficiency is necessary for the student to conduct original research. The second change is related to the elimination of Advisory Committees. The third change is simply clarification of existing policy. It has been the policy of the department for faculty in a student’s first field of study to make the call regarding language proficiency. These members of the faculty may use any of a number of methods to assure the student’s proficiency. The deletions of all the extra language about how proficiency might be obtained is intended to simplify the process and eliminate student confusion. The last change is prompted by the elimination of Advisory Committees. Because the language involves an exception (addresses a “standard”) the department’s Graduate Committee is deemed the appropriate authority.

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Candidacy Examinations

The student will take… …A student may take examinations in contiguous semesters or in one examination period, based on the recommendation of faculty in his/her first and second field of study advisory committee. Any student who fails a written examination may, with the permission of the relevant faculty advisory committee, retake that particular… …permitted to continue.

↓

Rationale: The change is prompted by the elimination of advisory committees. The Department holds that faculty in the student’s first and second subfields of study are the appropriate authority to make decisions about student preparedness and whether the student might benefit by retaking a candidacy exam.
Notification: This program is exclusive to the Department of Political Science. Notification is not required.

Division of Statistics

New Course: Page 254, 2014-15 Graduate Catalog

CIP Code: 27.0501

STAT 550. BASIC PROBABILITY MODELS AND STATISTICAL INFERENCE (3). Introduction to the basic concepts in probability models and statistical inference. Topics include probability, probability distributions and models, introduction to elementary stochastic processes and elementary statistical inference. Not open to students who have taken STAT 350 or its equivalent. PRQ: MATH 230 or consent of division.

Rationale: STAT 550 will be an introductory graduate level course covering both probability and statistical inference with no previous STAT course prerequisite and minimal Calculus background. This course is proposed in collaboration with the Departments of Finance and Economics as part of a new emphasis in Financial Engineering in the Finance Department’s Master of Science in Financial Risk Management.

Non-Duplication: None. As noted above, this course is a collaboration with Finance and Economics.