

Academic Council Minutes

December 2023

Midwestern State University

The Academic Council met Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dillard College of Business Administration, the Priddy Conference Room.

Voting Members:

Dr. Sarah Cobb, Interim Dean, McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

Ms. Leah Gose, Dean, Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

Dr. Leann Curry, Dean, Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education

Dr. Jeff Killion, Dean, Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Dr. Jeff Stambaugh, Dean, Dillard College of Business Administration

Dr. Sam Watson, Dean, Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Tiffany Ziegler, Interim Dean, Dr. Billie Doris McAda Graduate School

Dr. Dawn Slavens, Faculty Senate representative

Mr. Brandon Goins, Student Government Association representative (absent from meeting)

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Kristen Garrison, Associate Vice President Academic Affairs

Ms. Leah Hickman, Director, Processing and Operations for Admissions

Ms. Kayla Meaders, Academic Advising Committee representative

Ms. Cortny Moorehead, University Librarian, Moffett Library

Mr. Kenley O'Brien, Associate Registrar

Ms. Elizabeth Ysasi, Associate Director of Admissions and Staff Senate representative

Dr. Margaret Brown Marsden, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presided and the meeting began at 2:03 p.m. for both November and December's agendas.

Approval of Minutes

November minutes were not approved during this meeting because both November and December academic council agendas were discussed during this meeting.

Old Business

There being no Old Business, the Council moved on to New Business.

New Business

Core Curriculum Committee Update – Dr. Garrison

1. Dr. Garrison submitted the below core curriculum updates as a proxy for Professor Lewandowski. Dr. Watson seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Core Course Inventory Updates – Effective Spring 2024

Change of Course Title:

Course Prefix: PHIL

Course Number: 2503

Course Title: **Ancient and Medieval Philosophy** ~~History of Western Philosophy I~~

Course Prefix: PHIL

Course Number: 2513

Course Title: **Modern and Contemporary Philosophy** ~~History of Western Philosophy II~~

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences – Dr. Watson

2. Dr. Watson submitted the below undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded and the items were approved.
3. Dr. Brown Marsden noted this item would need to go to SACSCOC and THECB, but perhaps not the Board of Regents.

Political Science, B.A./**B.S.**

The requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts/**Science** with a major in political science are as follows:

General

(See General Requirements for all Bachelor's Degrees)

Academic Foundations and Core Curriculum - 42 semester hours

(See Academic Foundations and Core Curriculum - 42 semester hours)

All proposed changes are marked as such: deleted items are marked with a strikethrough line and new items are in bold and underlined. Italicized wording is justification or clarification from the proposing department/college.

Bachelor of Arts

(See Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree)

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

A major in political science has the option of obtaining a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree.

See the Requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees.

Program Requirements

Major - 33 semester hours

- POLS 1333 – **American and Texas Government I** ~~American Government~~ 3
- POLS 1433 – **American and Texas Government II** ~~American Government~~ 3
- POLS 2523 - Foundations of Government and Politics 3
- POLS 3213 - Research Methods 3

3 hours from:

- POLS 3313 - Introduction to Political Theory 3
- POLS 4543 - Feminist Political Theory 3
- POLS 4553 - Contemporary Political Theory 3

3 hours from:

- POLS 3533 - European Politics 3
- POLS 3553 - Government and Politics of Central Eurasia 3
- POLS 3563 – Middle East Politics 3
- POLS 3583 - Latin American Politics 3
- POLS 3593 - Asian Politics 3
- POLS 4453 - Political Protest and Revolutions 3

3 hours from:

- POLS 3523 - Global Development and NGOs 3
- POLS 3653 - International Relations 3
- POLS 3923 - Human Rights 3
- POLS 4333 - International Law 3
- POLS 4383 - Global Environmental Politics 3
- POLS 4653 - International Political Economy 3
- POLS 4773 - International Conflict 3
- POLS 4853 - Contemporary American Foreign Policy 3

3 hours from:

- POLS 3933 - Law and Politics 3
- POLS 4133 - Public Administration 3
- POLS 4173 - Organizational Behavior and Decision Making 3
- POLS 4233 - American Constitutional Law 3
- POLS 4243 - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 3
- POLS 4953 - Public Personnel Administration 3

3 hours from:

- POLS 3443 - Municipal Government and Metropolitan Problems 3
- POLS 3753 - Campaigns and Elections 3
- POLS 3843 - The Presidency 3
- POLS 4043 - Congress 3
- POLS 4463 - American Public Opinions 3

Additional Advanced Courses - 6 hours

Note:

POLS 4903 and POLS 4933 can be used to fulfill cluster requirements based on their subject matter in a given semester.

Minor Requirement

All Political Science majors must complete a minor of at least 18 semester hours of which at least 6 must be advanced. The minor field selected must be acceptable to the chairs of major and minor programs.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree

Additional General Requirements

All B.S. degree programs include at least four laboratory science courses. Students must choose two courses in each of two different laboratory sciences, (exclusive of PHYS 1533, CHEM 1103, CHEM 1303, and ENSC 1114).

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The B.S. degree programs in psychology, ~~and sociology,~~ **and political science** require one mathematics course (exclusive of MATH 0003, MATH 0053, MATH 0203, MATH 0233, MATH 1003, MATH 1053, MATH 1203, MATH 2033, and MATH 2043), which is already included in the core requirements.

All other B.S. degree programs include at least two mathematics courses (exclusive of MATH 0003, MATH 0053, MATH 0203, MATH 0233, MATH 1003, MATH 1053, MATH 1203, MATH 2033, and MATH 2043). STAT 3573 may be used to satisfy three hours of this mathematics requirement.

The science and math courses may be included as part of the core requirements, as well as major and/or minor requirements in these fields.

4. Dr. Watson submitted the below undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded and the items were approved.
5. Questions were raised involving what can be counted for minors and signature minors. Dr. Brown Marsden noted there would be further clarification coming later regarding this issue.

Political Communication Minor

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION (18 hours)

Description:

The political communication minor allows students to explore the many ways in which politics and communication overlap. Students who complete the minor will be able to consider jobs such as political journalist/commentator, media relations for public officials/organizations, lobbyist and others.

Required Courses:

MCOM 1603 Writing for the Communication Professions

POLS 2523 Foundations of Government and Politics

Two of the following courses:

MCOM 3223 Advertising

MCOM 3233 Editing

MCOM 3253 Publication Design

MCOM 3313 Foundations in Media Production

MCOM 3513 Special Topics in Mass Comm.

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MCOM 3613 Field and Studio Production
MCOM 3623 Mass Communication History
MCOM 3733 Media Ethics
MCOM 4163 Newspaper Practicum
MCOM 4183 Internship
MCOM 4263 Advanced Media Production I
MCOM 4533 Advanced Reporting/Writing
MCOM 4563 Advanced Media Production For Non-Majors
MCOM 4643 Mass Communication Law
MCOM 4683 Public Relations Principles
MCOM 4823 MSU Client Services Practicum I

Two of the following courses:

POLS 3443 Municipal Government and Metropolitan Problems
POLS 3523 Global Development and NGOs
POLS 3653 International Relations
POLS 3753 Campaigns and Elections
POLS 3923 Human Rights
POLS 3933 Law and Politics
POLS 4043 Congress
POLS 4233 American Constitutional Law
POLS 4243 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
POLS 4453 Political Protest and Revolutions
POLS 4463 American Public Opinion
POLS 4853 Contemporary American Foreign Policy
POLS 4933 Special Topics in Political Science

6. Dr. Watson submitted the below undergraduate items for approval. Ms. Gose seconded and the items were approved.

Course Inventory Updates:

New Course Addition – Effective Fall 2024:

Course Prefix: ENGL

Course Number: 4243

Course Title: Usability and User Experience Research

Prerequisite(s): Communication Core complete

Description: This course teaches students foundational concepts about usability and user experience. The course prepares writing professionals to develop skills in user-centered documentation creation. By learning and evaluating various user research methods,

students analyze user needs and solve users' problems through ideation, prototyping, and usability testing. Students have opportunities for hands-on experience with clients and end-users through activities and project-based teamwork.

Lec/Lab Hrs: **3(3-0)**

Type of Course: **Lecture**

Course Objectives:

- **Understand the foundational concepts of user experience and usability and their applications in workplaces.**
- **Form empathy for users and stakeholders by applying a user-centered approach in professional communication.**
- **Understand various forms of user research and be able to perform one type of user research.**
- **Develop user-awareness and problem-solving skills through project-based teamwork.**
- **Understand the approaches and basic practices of usability test.**

Graduate Course and Catalog Changes – Dr. Ziegler

7. Dr. Ziegler submitted the below graduate items for approval. Dr. Watson seconded and the items were approved.

Course Inventory/Catalog changes Effective Fall 2024

English, M.A./M.S.

Option 1: Scholarly Thesis Track

30 semester hours of approved graduate English courses including:

- ENGL 5043 - Introduction to Graduate English Studies
- Research - Choose 3 hours from
- **ENGL 5243 – Usability and User Experience Research**

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- ENGL 5533 - Literary Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5553 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5563 - Research Methods in Writing Studies

Option 2: Creative Thesis Track

30 semester hours of approved graduate English courses including:

- ENGL 5043 - Introduction to Graduate English Studies
Research - Choose 3 hours from
- **ENGL 5243 – Usability and User Experience Research**
- ENGL 5533 - Literary Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5553 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5563 - Research Methods in Writing Studies

Option 3: Professional Development Track (Non-Thesis)

Required courses include:

- ENGL 5043 - Introduction to Graduate English Studies
Research - Choose 3 hours from
- **ENGL 5243 – Usability and User Experience Research**
- ENGL 5533 - Literary Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5553 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5563 - Research Methods in Writing Studies

English Graduate Certificates

https://catalog.msutexas.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=40&poid=5657&returnto=2208

Certificate I: Graduate Certificate in English-Professional Studies

Options-Choose Three:

- ENGL 5023 - Teaching College Writing
- ENGL 5033 - Teaching College Literature
- ENGL 5133 - Advanced Creative Writing-Prose
- ENGL 5213 - Special Graduate Topics in Professional and Technical Writing
- ENGL 5223 - Grant and Proposal Writing
- ENGL 5233 - Publishing and Editing
- **ENGL 5243 – Usability and User Experience Research**
- ENGL 5503 - Professional and Technical Editing
- ENGL 5553 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
- ENGL 5563 - Research Methods in Writing Studies

All proposed changes are marked as such: deleted items are marked with a strikethrough line and new items are in bold and underlined. Italicized wording is justification or clarification from the proposing department/college.

- ENGL 5573 - Special Topics in Writing Studies

Certificate II: Graduate Certificate in English-Literature and Language Studies

Options-Choose Three:

- ENGL 5033 - Teaching College Literature
- ENGL 5043 - Introduction to Graduate English Studies
- ENGL 5513 - History of the English Language
- ENGL 5523 - Introduction to Linguistics
- ENGL 5533 - Literary Theory and Criticism
- **ENGL 5753 - Old English Language and Literature**
- **ENGL 5773 – Shakespeare**
- **ENGL 5853 - Eighteenth Century English Literature**
- ENGL 5953 - Special Topics Contemporary Literature
- ENGL 5973 - Young Adult Literature
- ENGL 5993 - Special Graduate Topics in Literature

ENGL 5243 (new course addition)

Course Title: Usability and User Experience Research

Course Prerequisite: none

Course Description: **This course teaches students advanced concepts and practices in usability and user experience research. The course prepares writing professionals to develop advanced skills in user-centered documentation creation by reviewing academic and professional publications and conducting various user research studies. Students can apply their findings to the practice of document creation, thereby enhancing the overall user experience. Additionally, students will gain hands-on experience with useability testing.**

Lecture/Lab Hours: 3 (3-0)

Course Objective:

- **Understand the concepts and theories of user experience and usability at an advanced level.**
- **Form empathy for users and stakeholders by applying a user-centered approach in professional communication.**
- **Comprehend various forms of user research, including interviews, surveys, focus groups, and ethnographic research, and demonstrate the ability to conduct independent user research.**
- **Apply advanced critical thinking and design thinking skills to the document creation process, form report writing, and class presentations.**
- **Understand in-depth concepts of usability testing through research of academic and professional publication, and be able to plan, design, and conduct a usability test.**

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Adjournment:

This meeting also included November's Academic Council agenda. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned for both November and December agendas at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Boerma
Assistant to the Provost