Political Sciences

1. Add the following courses [Effective: Summer 2014]

    PolS J441/J541 Genes and Justice: Comparative Biotechnology Policy Formation (3 cr)
    The course introduces students to the basic theoretical, ethical, and practical issues surrounding the rise and regulation of recent biotechnological and biomedical advances, including genetically modified animals and plants in agriculture, stem cell research and cloning in biomedical research, and reprogenetics in medically assisted reproductive technology. Students will learn about theoretical and ethical frameworks to investigate questions of domestic and international policy making and the task of governing modern biosciences, including food safety, fair-trade, consumer well-being, informed choice in medical treatment, conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability. Additional projects and/or assignments required for graduate credit.

Rationale: This course has been offered a few times on campus to test interest levels in this course. Due to its' successes with students in the Honors Program, the International Studies program and the Department of Political Science, which each offered this courses on a test base prior to this application, we are now eager to move forward and to apply to offer this course as part of our accepted political science curriculum. Our rationale for this course is that it adds a crucial—and timely—seminar to our undergraduate and graduate programs in the area of comparative politics, international politics, political philosophy, and public policy. This course studies and teaches how cutting-edge developments in science and technology have to be addressed by governments around the world through a variety of public policies and/or international conventions. Since these new scientific and technological developments raise important ethical questions for all societies, the course addresses the importance for citizens to stay informed about theses and future new developments in the area. The course has been offered by existing, tenured faculty member of the Department of Political Science and a will be offered by her in the future as part of her regular course load.