

Graduate Course Cross-listing Policy Proposal

In light of recent discussions concerning the subfield designations of graduate courses, the GSC is putting forth the following proposal. As of AY 2018-19, our department does not have a policy concerning the cross-listing of graduate courses. Historically, cross-listing decisions have been made by individual faculty members in consultation with field clerks, the Graduate Program Director, and graduate students. This proposed policy is designed to clarify what happens, if and when, there is disagreement about whether a course should be cross-listed. It also aims to reaffirm a departmental commitment to a “cross-sub-disciplinary approach to political science and diverse methodological approaches” (<https://polsci.umass.edu/>).

The proposal is as follows:

1. Faculty members teaching graduate courses decide which subfield designations are appropriate to attach to their course. This can happen either when a new course is proposed, or when a change is made to the subfield listing of an existing course.
2. Faculty members inform the field clerk(s) of the affected fields.
3. If and only if the field clerk (in consultation with members of that field) has a concern or an objection to the decision to list a course in that field, the field clerk can bring their concern to the Graduate Studies Committee.
4. The GSC will discuss the matter after examining the syllabus in question, and then vote.
5. If the majority of GSC supports the faculty member, it will be cross-listed. If the majority does not support the faculty member, it will not be cross-listed.