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**PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR)**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	Northern Studies	College/School	CLA
Prepared by	Laura Schneider	Phone	7126
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See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures-/> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

DEGREE PROGRAM	Northern Studies
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	M.A.

**A. CHANGE IN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: (Brief statement of program/degree changes and objectives)**

This proposal adds a new concentration—in arctic policy—to the Northern Studies MA degree.

**B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:**

**MA Degree**

**Concentrations: Individualized Study, Environmental Politics and Policy, and Northern History**

1. Complete the general university requirements (page 202).
2. Complete the master's degree requirements (page 206).
3. Complete the following
  - NORS F600—Perspectives of the North .....3
  - NORS F601—Research Methods and Sources in the North .....3
4. Complete two elective courses at the F400- or F600-level .....6
5. Complete one of the following:
  - NORS F698—Non-thesis Research/Project.....6
  - NORS F699—Thesis.....6 – 12
6. Complete one of the following concentrations:

**Individualized Study\***

**Complete 12 credits from the following:**

- a. Course offerings selected from the relevant department\*\* and,
- b. Courses offered within the Northern Studies program, including those in the other concentrations (below) and,
- c. Any of the following:
  - NORS F606—Science, Technology and Development in Northern Regions.....3
  - NORS F614—Human Adaptation to the Circumpolar North.....3
  - NORS F640—Ethics and Reporting in the Far North.....3
  - NORS F652—International Relations of the North.....3
  - NORS F660—Government and Politics of Canada.....3
  - NORS F662—Alaska Government and Politics.....3
  - NORS F668—Government and Politics of Russia.....3
  - NORS F680—Comparative Education.....3

\*The individualized study concentration may be used as a basis for a MA thesis/project typically under the direction of a faculty member in the most relevant department.

\*\*Some students may, with the consent of their graduate committee, develop

an individualized program with an emphasis on Alaska Native studies, northern art, northern sociology, northern policy studies, or another northern field or discipline.

#### **Environmental Politics and Policy\***

Complete 12 credits from the following:

NORS/PS F603—Public Policy.....	3
NORS/PS F647—U.S. Environmental Policy.....	3
NORS F648—Environmental Politics of the Circumpolar North.....	3
NORS/PS F654—International Law and the Environment.....	3
NORS/PS F655—Political Economy of the Global Environment.....	3
NORS/PS F656—Science, Technology and Politics.....	3
NORS/PS F658—Comparative Environmental Politics.....	3
NORS F613—Wilderness and Environmental Psychology.....	3

\*The environmental politics and policy concentration may be used as a basis for the MA thesis/project.

Note: The environmental politics and policy concentration is a clear track toward interdisciplinary doctoral programs.

#### **Northern History\***

a. Complete the following:

NORS/HIST F690—Researching and Writing Northern History.....	3
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b. Complete 9 credits from the following:

HIST F470—Seminar in Alaska History.....	3
NORS F661/HIST F662—History of Alaska.....	3
NORS/HIST F663—Foundations of Russian History.....	3
NORS/HIST F664—Modern Russia.....	3
NORS/HIST F681—Polar Exploration and its Literature.....	3
NORS/HIST F683—20th Century Circumpolar History.....	3

\*The northern history concentration may be used for the MA thesis/project.

7. Minimum credits required.....	30
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### **C. PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG WITH THESE CHANGES: (Underline new wording ~~strike-through-old-wording~~ and use complete catalog format )**

#### **MA Degree**

#### **Concentrations: Individualized Study, Environmental Politics and Policy, and Northern History, and Arctic Policy**

1. Complete the general university requirements (page 202).
2. Complete the master's degree requirements (page 206).
3. Complete the following
 

NORS F600—Perspectives of the North .....	3
NORS F601—Research Methods and Sources in the North .....	3
4. Complete two elective courses at the F400- or F600-level .....6
5. Complete one of the following:
 

NORS F698—Non-thesis Research/Project.....	6
NORS F699—Thesis.....	6 – 12
6. Complete one of the following concentrations:

#### **Individualized Study\***

Complete 12 credits from the following:

- a. Course offerings selected from the relevant department\*\* and,
- b. Courses offered within the Northern Studies program, including those in the other concentrations (below) and,

c. Any of the following:

NORS F606—Science, Technology and Development in Northern Regions.....	3
NORS F614—Human Adaptation to the Circumpolar North.....	3
NORS F640—Ethics and Reporting in the Far North.....	3
NORS F652—International Relations of the North.....	3
NORS F660—Government and Politics of Canada.....	3
NORS F662—Alaska Government and Politics.....	3
NORS F668—Government and Politics of Russia.....	3



NORS F680—Comparative Education.....3

\*The individualized study concentration may be used as a basis for a MA thesis/project typically under the direction of a faculty member in the most relevant department.

\*\*Some students may, with the consent of their graduate committee, develop an individualized program with an emphasis on Alaska Native studies, northern art, northern sociology, northern policy studies, or another northern field or discipline.

#### **Environmental Politics and Policy\***

Complete 12 credits from the following:

NORS/PS F603—Public Policy.....3

NORS/PS F647—U.S. Environmental Policy.....3

NORS F648—Environmental Politics of the Circumpolar North.....3

NORS/PS F654—International Law and the Environment.....3

NORS/PS F655—Political Economy of the Global Environment.....3

NORS/PS F656—Science, Technology and Politics.....3

NORS/PS F658—Comparative Environmental Politics.....3

NORS F613—Wilderness and Environmental Psychology.....3

\*The environmental politics and policy concentration may be used as a basis for the MA thesis/project.

Note: The environmental politics and policy concentration is a clear track toward interdisciplinary doctoral programs.

#### **Northern History\***

a. Complete the following:

NORS/HIST F690—Researching and Writing Northern History.....3

b. Complete 9 credits from the following:

HIST F470—Seminar in Alaska History.....3

NORS F661/HIST F662—History of Alaska.....3

NORS/HIST F663—Foundations of Russian History.....3

NORS/HIST F664—Modern Russia.....3

NORS/HIST F681—Polar Exploration and its Literature.....3

NORS/HIST F683—20th Century Circumpolar History.....3

\*The northern history concentration may be used for the MA thesis/project.

#### **Arctic Policy**

a. Complete one of the following:

PS F669—Arctic Politics and Governance.....3

NORS F652—International Relations of the North.....3

b. Complete 12 credits from the following:\*

PS F650—Comparative Aboriginal Rights.....3

PS F660—Government and Politics of Canada.....3

PS F662—Alaska Government and Politics.....3

PS F668—Government and Politics of Russia.....3

PS F669—Arctic Politics and Governance.....3

\*Students may substitute 1 course from other PS graduate offerings, with the approval of their graduate committee chair.

c. Complete 6 credits from the following:\*\*

ANTH F610—Northern Indigenous Peoples and Contemporary Issues.....3

ECON F637—Natural Resource Policy.....3

HIST F404—Modern Scandinavia.....3

NORS F661/HIST F662—History of Alaska.....3

NORS/HIST F664—Modern Russia.....3

NORS/HIST F683—20<sup>th</sup> Century Circumpolar History.....3

RD F601—Political Economy of the Circumpolar North.....3

\*\*Students may substitute courses with approval of their graduate committee chair.

7. Minimum credits required.....30



**D. ESTIMATED IMPACT**

*WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.*

Overall, the effect of this proposal will be to significantly increase the political science contribution to NORS, and to make the political science offerings more efficient by drawing more students into the courses. There will be no immediate budget impact, because we do not need to hire new faculty to teach the courses in the concentration. All the courses have been approved and are taught on a regular schedule. A few of the courses have lower enrollments than needed to make them efficient uses of faculty resources. Putting them in this concentration (and advertising it not only on campus but nationally—through the PS department's contacts with other departments) likely will draw new students. There may be a slight demand on facilities/space as enrollment increases. However, an advantage of the proposal is that a number of the courses in the program—for example McBeath's Alaska politics course—have online sections and draw as many students from outside Fairbanks as they do on campus.

**E. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:**

*What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?  
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)*

The primary impact of this proposal will be on the political science department, which supports the proposal strongly. The northern studies and history departments will be affected as well. They will see more students in NORS and History courses.

Three additional departments—Anthropology, Economics, and Rural Development—offer courses which we propose to be electives in the arctic policy concentration. They will be affected slightly, and we have notified them by e-mail that we are proposing this concentration.

**F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:**

*Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)*

All the PS courses already have identified learning outcomes and are assessed by their students and instructors. The concentration will be evaluated by political science faculty and both northern studies and history faculty. The assessment means will include: 1) annual review of MA theses/projects in the arctic policy area by a panel of three PS/NORS/History faculty who did not sit on student committees; 2) after the concentration has been in existence for three years, a biennial review of the satisfaction of goals and objectives of the concentration; and 3) exit surveys of graduating students.

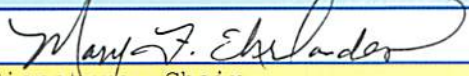
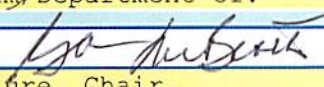
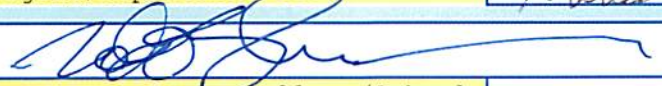
**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If you drop a course, is it because the material is covered elsewhere? Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised as a result.

In fall 2010, the PS department proposed a new graduate program, a MA in Political Science, with two tracks: 1) arctic policy and 2) environmental policy and politics. The environmental track already existed as a concentration in NORS; the arctic policy track was new at the time. Although the CLA academic council approved the proposal, at that time it lacked support (a promise of TA lines) from the dean's office; too, the graduate curriculum council was not sympathetic to a new graduate degree program, and some members thought the UA Regents would withhold support from a social science degree. Political science faculty are aware that the fiscal environment for developing new graduate programs is not good; however, they strongly believe that the department has a larger contribution to make to the academic treatment of arctic governance, politics, and policy than it already has made. For this reason, the faculty seek to have the second track, developed in 2010, become a concentration in NORS. The NORS MA program is entering its third decade and has a good supply of students. Arctic policy fits well within the interdisciplinary themes of NORS, will add depth to the degree program, and make it more attractive nationally.

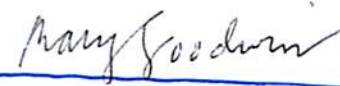


APPROVALS:

		Date	9-4-13
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		Northern Studies	
		Date	9-4-13
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		Political Science	
		Date	10/4/13
Signature, Dean, College/School of:		CLA	

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE

		Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee			

  
 Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum council of CLA

CLA

10-4-13

Date