STRUCTURE OF THE SOPHOMORE YEAR

Along with this document, we are e-mailing the CSS calendar for next year, which will also be on the CSS webpage, as well as a letter outlining the upcoming year in the CSS for your class. You will also be given the Tutorial Distribution List that shows students' individual placement into the three Tutorials and documents outlining the first assignments for the Colloquium and the appropriate Tutorial.

The full syllabi for the sophomore courses will be available on the CSS website.

Your advisor, now and for the rest of the year (and generally for the rest of your time at Wesleyan), is the tutor of your first-trimester tutorial. Check your portfolio to see to whom you have been assigned. When you return to campus, you should adjust your course selections for the fall to accommodate membership in the CSS by discussing your schedule with your new advisor and making whatever changes are needed. As you do this, please keep in mind the requirements and other considerations given below.

CHOOSING COURSES FOR THE SOPHOMORE YEAR

The CSS expects you to take one course outside the CSS in the fall, and two outside courses in the spring. Remember that, even though you will not be taking Social Theory in the Spring, you will be preparing for Comps. Your outside courses in the Spring should not be too demanding.

You have been pre-registered for CSS 271, Sophomore Colloquium and the first trimester CSS tutorial to which you have been assigned. During fall preregistration for spring classes, sophomores will be pre-enrolled in two CSS tutorials. Note, you will actually have begun the second tutorial during the fall semester before you are pre-enrolled prior to the pre-registration period opening.

Economics Requirement

If you have already taken ECON 101 or ECON 110 and received a grade of C- or better, you have satisfied the Economics requirement for CSS. In addition, if you have taken the AP exams or the IB exam in economics and received a score of 4 or 5 on BOTH AP (microeconomics and macroeconomics) exams or a score of 5 or higher on the IB exam, you have satisfied the Economics requirement. Please be sure that your AP or IB scores are registered in your student portfolio for verification purposes.

If you have not yet taken an economics course at Wesleyan and you are unable to use AP or IB exam scores to satisfy the Economics requirement, you must enroll in ECON 101 or ECON 110
(for which a full-year of college-level calculus is required) in the upcoming fall semester. If you fail to achieve a grade of C- or higher in your chosen economics course, you will be required to leave the CSS at the end of the fall semester.

If you have already taken one of the introductory economics courses at Wesleyan but you did not achieve a grade of C- or higher, you must enroll in another economics course in the upcoming fall semester. This second course would normally be a 200-level elective in economics. To fulfill the Economics requirement by the end of your fall semester, you must have achieved a grade in your second economics course that is sufficiently high so that the average in the two Economics courses is at least C-. If you fail to achieve an average grade of C- or higher in your two economics courses, you will be required to leave the CSS at the end of the fall semester. If you have any questions about the Economics requirement or your own status, please write to the CSS Co-Chairs.

General Education Expectations

Due to the heavy load of required courses for CSS sophomores, you are not required to fulfill Stage I expectations by the end of the sophomore year. You should satisfy Stage I and be on your way toward satisfying Stage II by the end of the junior year.

CSS students who will not have completed Stage I of the General Education distributional expectations by the end of the sophomore year must, by the start of spring preregistration for fall courses in the junior year, submit for approval of their advisor and the CSS co-chairs a plan for completing the expectations of both Stage I and Stage II by graduation. To graduate with a CSS major, a student must be Stage II Compliant (which requires completion of Stage I expectations) no later than the end of the senior year.

GENERAL NOTES

Absences and Late Papers

Sophomores must attend all tutorials and bring with them a completed paper. Likewise, they must attend every session of the colloquium and submit its assignments on time. Absence from classes undermines a common learning experience; failure to finish papers on time breaks the chain of effort and criticism on which the tutorial method depends. An absence from any tutorial or the colloquium for any reason or a failure to complete a paper on time must be reported to the CSS co-chairs and the student will be given a warning. A second absence or late paper within that tutorial or in the colloquium for any reason will result in the student being placed under review. Depending on the circumstances, a review for failure to attend class can result in separation from the CSS major. Late papers initiate the late-paper procedures described on the CSS web page at: http://www.wesleyan.edu/css/formajors/latepapers.html.
Additional Skills

Students of the social sciences interested in pursuing further research should generally be familiar with the basic quantitative and critical or interpretive techniques used in describing and explaining social phenomena. These skills also provide a solid foundation for senior thesis research. For these reasons you might consider taking one of the following courses during your program of studies: ECON 300, GOVT 366, QAC 201, HIST 362, PSYC 200, or SOC 202. Students may also want to delve deeper into the philosophical and historical bases of the social sciences by taking courses in the philosophical classics, and/or in ancient and modern history.

Grades

The sophomore tutorials and colloquium are ungraded; instead you will receive evaluations, both written and oral. At the end of the year there is a comprehensive examination on the material of these courses, graded in the CSS mode (High Distinction, Distinction, Commendable, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory). This single grade is the only grade to be recorded on the transcript for sophomore year; letter grades in courses taken outside the CSS will not appear on the transcript but will be converted to pass/fail (CR/U) grades. This policy reduces stress in the sophomore year while encouraging you to explore new subjects and take challenging courses across the curriculum. During Drop/Add in the fall and during preregistration for the spring, you should consider choosing the CR/U mode of grading if it is available for your courses. The sole exception is an economics course that you are using to satisfy the Economics requirements. Such a course must be taken graded.

Please note: If the student wishes to apply for a certificate or complete a minor or major that requires a record of the grade, sophomores are strongly advised to register for courses on a graded basis while submitting a Grade Conversion Form as the student may need access to that recorded grade later in the student’s career. The Grade Conversion Form allows the grade to convert to CR/U on the student’s official transcript while remaining in the records of the department or program. If you are taking a course for a grade, e.g., an economics course, you must request a conversion of the letter grade to CR/U from the instructor using the Request for CR/U Grade Conversion form, which must be signed by the instructor and received by the CSS office before the end of the Drop/Add period. This allows the Registrar to convert the letter grade to CR/U on your transcript.