General Social Sciences (GSS) is a revived program – it was discontinued in the mid-1970s – that provides students the flexibility to design a major that combines courses from several departments across campus. The program can satisfy the needs of several different types of students, depending on their interests: 1) For the career minded student, GSS provides career training combined with the analytical skills of a liberal arts education. 2) For the intellectually curious student, GSS offers the study of particular themes across several social science disciplines. 3) For the student who just has trouble choosing a major from the vast number offered here at the UofO, GSS offers a curriculum across several departments.

Through GSS students can receive a BA or a BS. GSS majors fulfill a breadth requirement by taking courses in several social science disciplines, fulfill core preliminary requirements, pass appropriate methodology courses, and complete specialization requirements using existing pre-identified upper division courses. There are four concentrations or tracks in GSS. Each track has its own set of core classes, then provides a number of elective courses from various departments. The four tracks are:

- **Applied Economics and Business** combines technical training in business with the analytical training of the liberal arts. This concentration draws heavily from courses in the Business School and the Economics department so that it offers specific business skills while also exploring how business works in society, on the national level, and in the global context. This concentration is designed specifically for students who wish to work in business or to pursue an MBA.

- **Crime, Law, and Society** provides the student a broad exposure to problems that confront society relating to the causes, consequences, and policies regarding crime and socio-legal issues. The Crime track offers a flexible curriculum designed to provide an excellent preparation for persons who have an interest in criminology, law school, or working in law enforcement or social services.

- **Globalization, Environment, and Policy** [previously titled “Geo-politics…"] focuses on broad social-political and environmental issues at the regional and global levels, as well as policy planning designed to meet these issues. The Globalization track will provide training for students hoping to work in green industry, government, NGOs, and environmental organizations. Additionally, the track prepares students to earn graduate degrees in planning, public management, policy studies or other applied social sciences with a global emphasis.

- **Social Studies Teaching** prepares students with the coursework requirements for admission to the graduate teacher licensure program at the University of Oregon – UOTeach. This concentration does not in and of itself lead to a teaching license. Rather, this concentration provides a well-defined content so that students will be prepared to enroll in a graduate program to become licensed to teach Social Studies at the middle or high school level.
Administrative Structure of the GSS Program

GSS is designed to be low cost and require minimum overhead. GSS has no faculty and offers no courses. Rather, GSS curricula use courses already in place in other departments. At this point, the overhead of GSS is the salary of the director (Reuben Zahler) and his assistant (Betina Lynn), ASA funds to some committee members, and a few ancillary office expenses (e.g., long-distance calling). Running GSS is the responsibility of the Director while modifying the curriculum is the responsibility of the FGC.

1) The Faculty Guidance Committee (FGC)
   a) The FGC will help to define the curricula of the GSS tracks and ensure that departments make the necessary courses available.
   b) The FGC will be composed of the director of GSS, the dean of CAS, associate dean of social sciences, the five key department heads (Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Geography, and History), Student Advisors (SAs), other personnel that these people consider appropriate.
   c) The department heads will recommend members of their departments to serve as Student Advisors (SAs) and additional members of the FGC. They could be tenure-related faculty, non-tenure related faculty (NTRF), or staff who have useful, practical knowledge.
   d) Hopefully each department will have no more than two people fulfilling these roles (department head and one other department member).
   e) If FGC members are NTTF, they will receive $500 in ASA funds from the dean’s office 2010-11. This support should continue in coming years, and it may increase as responsibilities increase.

2) Running the program, modifying the curriculum, and decision-making authority
   a) The Director runs the day-to-day operations of the program.
   b) The curriculum
      i) The Director works with the appropriate sub-committees of the FGC to design/modify curricula for the tracks. The Director then passes the sub-committee recommendations to the dean and associate dean for approval.
      (1) Given that members of the FGC are associated with only one or two tracks, it would be inefficient to discuss curriculum for each track with the full FGC
   c) Decision making
      i) Changes in the curriculum and structure of GSS ultimately must get approval from the dean and associate dean.
      ii) The department heads and director have authority to approve recommendations to be made to the Dean and Associate Dean.
      iii) Other members of the FGC have advisory responsibilities, but recommendations to the deans must come from the department head and/or director.

3) Student Advising
   a) Each of the five key departments (Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Geography, and History) will have a department member assigned to serve as a student advisor to GSS majors. The advisors will be familiar with the GSS curriculum and requirements.
b) The advisor could be the department head or somebody appointed by the head for this role (an SA).

**FGC membership and subcommittees (2010-11)**
The four tracks of GSS, with the departments most represented in each track
1) Crime, Law, and Society  
   a) Subtrack: criminology or law enforcement (Sociology)  
   b) Subtrack: Pre-law (PoliSci)  
2) Globalization, Environment, and Policy  
   a) Geography and PoliSci  
3) Applied Economics and Business  
   a) Economics  
4) Social Studies Teaching  
   a) History, School of Ed

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**Economics:**
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