

Department of Political Science

University of Wisconsin-Madison

## GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Version 4.1– August 2017

This Guide is in three chapters. Chapter One provides some useful words of advice in addition to an outline of the program and its requirements. Chapter Two sets out in greater detail the formal rules concerning the requirements for obtaining an M.A. or Ph.D. Chapter Three contains descriptions of the general prelim fields in the Department. It is your responsibility as a graduate student to be familiar with the rules of the Department and the Graduate School that apply to you.

### CHAPTER ONE

#### I. General Structure of the Program

The basic structure of the graduate program is explained in detail in Chapter Two. To summarize, in addition to taking a suitable course load (discussed below), you should:

- A. Take and pass Political Science 800 in your first semester.
- B. Take and pass the research design course Political Science 817.
- C. Take and pass three credits of coursework in statistical methodology.
- D. Meet with your advisor to discuss the faculty's First Year Assessment of your progress in the program by the start of your third semester.
- E. Take and pass two general prelims from the specified list (International Relations, American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Political Methodology) in June following your fourth semester.
- F. Present one or more possible dissertation ideas to a committee with a minimum of two faculty members no later than September 15th of the 5th semester.
- G. Take and pass the dissertation proposal workshop course Political Science 801.
- H. Submit a conference level research paper for review by January 15 before start of 6<sup>th</sup> semester.
- I. Complete the Graduate School Minor requirement (9 credits) and meet the minimum graduate credit requirement (51 credits).

- J. Fulfill any requirements specified by the student's primary subfield, such as presenting at a workshop.
- K. Maintain minimum of B average in coursework.
- L. Remove all Incompletes before defending the dissertation proposal.
- M. Produce an approved dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester.
- N. Write, defend and deposit a thesis of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge.

## II. Getting Advice

- A. One of the first people you will meet is the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Graduate Program Coordinator can give invaluable information on many of the questions you will have. If you have a question about specific procedures, deadlines, forms, and so on, you should always check with the Graduate Program Coordinator even if you have received advice from other individuals.
- B. During your first week in the department you will have an appointment with the Associate Chair, who is also the director of graduate studies for the department. The Associate Chair will help you find an advisor whose interests you share. The Associate Chair will also be happy to give advice throughout your career here in discussing department policies and requirements and defining your academic goals and program.
- C. Your advisor will be your first source of advice on questions concerning your work here. You should meet with this person at least once each semester. It is not uncommon for graduate students to change their advisor as their own interests change. All that needs to be done to change advisors is to obtain the consent of your new advisor and to notify both faculty members involved, the Associate Chair, and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Students should also feel free to bring their questions to other faculty members. It is never too early to be thinking about the composition of your committee.
- D. Each spring at the end of the semester, the faculty will meet to discuss the progress and performance of each of the first year students. Following this meeting, the Associate Chair will provide each student with a First Year Assessment. Students are then required to meet with their advisors to discuss the faculty's evaluation of their performance.
- E. Students will also receive evaluations of their performance as teaching assistants for each semester in which they TA. As teaching assistants, students should seek the advice from the instructor of the course, the Teaching Assistant Mentor, Director of Undergraduate, or more experienced teaching assistants.

### III. Selecting Courses

The courses you select should be chosen around a variety of objectives. Obviously, you want to select them so as to get as good a graduate education as possible. In addition to acquainting yourself with a field that will become your own area of specialization, courses will also introduce you to different approaches to research and orient you toward the fields beyond your own specialties.

- A. In selecting your initial courses, you will need to balance three considerations. First, you should take courses that build your portfolio of research techniques and methods. Second, you should take courses in areas that introduce you to approaches, material, and ideas with which you are unfamiliar. We recognize that many of you will not have had the opportunity as undergraduates to become familiar with all the approaches and areas covered in this department. Third, you should take courses that help you develop a mastery in two subfields so that you may pass prelim exams in those fields. Your advisor will help you strike the right balance between expanding your intellectual horizons, building your analytical tool kit, and preparing effectively for prelims. Try not to view every course you take as something that must lead directly to preparing for prelims; you will miss some excellent opportunities if you pursue course selection with only that objective in mind.
- B. As you will see from the rules in Chapter Two, there are a small number of courses that we require you to take: PS 800 (Political Science as a Discipline and Profession), PS 817 (Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry), and PS 801 (Dissertation Proposal Workshop). We also require you to take three credits of statistical methods instruction; these credits can be taken in this department or another department. While PS 812 (Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science) is the course most frequently used to satisfy this requirement, these credits may be taken in another department. If you are unsure whether a particular course in department would be considered acceptable, you should check with the chair of the Methods field and with the Associate Chair. The desirability of obtaining a thorough training in methods cannot be overemphasized. Quantitative skills open up new research possibilities for you in your thesis and, in the short term, improve your chances for obtaining a post as a project assistant dramatically. Building your skills in qualitative methods is also vital. Certainly there is excellent work done that uses one of these approaches to the exclusion of the other, but much of the most exciting research being done today blends both types of methods. Having this broad base of training makes you a more appealing candidate on the job market.
- C. You are strongly encouraged to find a workshop or two in which to participate on a regular basis. Workshops are one of the most important intellectual spaces in the department, providing an opportunity to become exposed to cutting-edge research and a chance to meet with scholars from other universities. Workshops are more than courses to take. With most fields requiring a presentation during the second or third year in the program, they provide a place to learn the rules of the game in terms of how to present, comment on, and discuss research. The number of credits for which you enroll, 1-3, varies based on your level of involvement in the workshop.

- D. Each course has its own requirements. However, all courses are designed so that the work required can be completed during the semester. We advise strongly against taking an incomplete for courses. Incompletes tend to accumulate, progressively reducing your ability to focus on work required for new courses you have started. Moreover, incompletes on your record are usually a disadvantage in competitions for financial aid (see below). Ultimately, if incompletes are not cleared, the Graduate School may deny you permission to register. If you have an incomplete after a semester, clear it as soon as possible. No student can receive a degree or defend the dissertation proposal with outstanding incompletes.
- E. Because the department offers a large variety of courses, it is rarely necessary for students to register for Political Science 999 (Independent Work). A 999 should not simply duplicate the reading list from a regularly offered course, and some faculty might refuse a request to do such a 999. If you do take a 999 you will need the consent of the professor. Be sure you agree clearly with the professor (preferably in writing) at the outset on the type of work and assignments required and the number of credits (2 or 3) you can earn. Forms for stating such agreements are available from the Graduate Program Coordinator. Only three credits of 999 coursework can be counted toward an M.A. or Minor requirement.
- F. Your courses are only one element in your education. Be sure to use other resources available to you, including seminars and special lectures given by visitors, attending talks by job candidates, and participating in conferences. Make contact with faculty in the department whose work interests you even if you are not taking a course with them. You aren't an undergraduate any longer; don't be just another face in a seminar or lecture! As a scholar in training, take the opportunities offered to you to enhance your professional development.

#### IV. The Dissertation

The writing of a good dissertation is the most important aspect of your career as a graduate student. It is your dissertation, more than your prelim performance or even your seminar grades, which will be crucial in getting you your first job. It is your dissertation that you will mine for publications as an assistant professor as you build a tenurable record. You will live with your thesis and subsequent publications for many years and it will have a major impact in defining your academic career. It follows that you should select a thesis topic with great care, consulting widely with faculty on your ideas for a thesis. It is your job, not the faculty's, to identify a research topic, but faculty are certainly ready, willing, and able to help you sort through the possibilities you have identified.

- A. From your very first semester, you should thinking about what interests you most.
- B. In selecting a topic for your dissertation, you will additionally have to make a trade-off between defining a topic that is "do-able" with the resources and time available, and defining a topic of potential intellectual significance. Your task is to identify a question that is likely to be of theoretical interest to a range of scholars in your field. A well-

chosen question is critically important. The sign of a good question is that virtually any answer to the question will interest other scholars. If you start the other way—what would be an interesting answer for me to find—you may find yourself quite worried if your research doesn't support that answer and trying hard to salvage the answer. You have to avoid both the grand but unmanageable thesis topic and the insignificant topic. You should think carefully about the “so what” question—that is, why should anyone care what the answer to the question is? Make sure you consult with your committee as you are developing your question. Departmental workshops are also useful for getting feedback on dissertation ideas.

- C. These questions should be in the back of your mind as you take courses. You should also be thinking about who you would like to be on your dissertation proposal and final committees.
- D. In your third year, you should be starting to transition to the dissertation and your research as your primary focus. The department's third year requirements are designed with that in mind.
  - 1. At the start of the fifth semester, you must meet with at least two faculty members to discuss one or more dissertation ideas. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to get concrete about a topic and to receive initial feedback. You are not locked into the topic or topics you present. You are also not required to include the faculty with whom you meet on your eventual dissertation proposal committee.
  - 2. The dissertation proposal class in your fifth semester is also a crucial place in which to learn how to structure a proposal, read examples of other proposals, and to otherwise prepare you to defend your proposal by the end of the sixth semester.
  - 3. In addition, while the research paper you hand in at the end of the fifth semester may be independent of your dissertation, that paper is also an opportunity to develop ideas and to work with ideas that are potential dissertation topics.
- E. You are expected to defend a dissertation proposal before start of the seventh semester. Writing the proposal is an essential process to go through, for it will force you to confront difficulties such as the ambiguity or confusion in your concepts, areas in which you need to read more deeply, gaps between your arguments and the evidence you plan to gather to sustain them, and the significance (or insignificance) of your work for political scientists who happen not to share your fascination with your thesis topic.
- F. It is your responsibility to arrange to meet frequently and regularly with your advisor and supervising committee to discuss progress and problems in your work.

## V. Normal Progress

You will hear a great deal about “making normal progress” during your time here. It is the expectation of the department that you will move through the program following the timeline that has been presented to you. A student not making normal progress may lose his or her guarantee of financial aid or be dropped from the program. Our program is designed so that completing your Ph.D. in five years, and certainly six, is a feasible goal.

- A. What is required to make normal progress? In general, to make normal progress through the program:
1. Meet with your advisor to discuss your First Year Assessment and submit the First Year Assessment form prior to the start of your third semester.
  2. Take an appropriate course load and achieve satisfactory average grades (B or better). If you have not yet achieved dissertator status and are not a TA or PA, the expectation is that you take a minimum of three courses (nine credits) plus enroll in a workshop each semester; most students in this situation take four courses (12 credits). If you have not yet achieved dissertator status and have a TA or PA appointment, the expected course load is at least two courses (six credits) plus enrollment in a workshop; most students in this situation take three courses (nine credits). You should take as many as courses as possible at the 800 level and above.
  3. Take and pass the two general prelims in June following the fourth semester, except for students requiring extensive language or methodological training, who may be granted one extra semester, as determined by the Associate Chair in consultation with the student’s advisor. Three or more courses in foreign language or methods (not including the required research design course or the required statistics credits) constitute extensive training and qualify a student for this extension of normal progress. If a student takes the Methods prelim, methods courses are considered part of general prelim preparation and do not qualify him/her for an extra semester. Students should discuss their prelim timing with their advisor.
  4. Present one or more possible dissertation ideas to a committee with a minimum of two faculty members no later than September 15th of the 5th semester.
  5. Submit a conference level paper on a topic in your first field to the Associate Chair for review by January 15<sup>th</sup>, before the start of the sixth semester.
  6. Submit an acceptable dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester.
  7. Complete the dissertation in a reasonable time after passing the prelims and the proposal defense.
- B. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the department recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Specific provisions for granting extensions for completion of the prelims are outlined above, and

those for dissertation proposals are outlined below. Beyond this, the Associate Chair, in consultation with the student's advisor, may grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances similar to those that permit assistant professors to obtain extensions on their tenure clocks: as noted in university regulations, this includes childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic illness, or circumstances beyond one's personal control. The typical extension for such purposes will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances.

Extensions will be granted formally with a note of explanation to be placed in the student's file.

- C. Taking account of any extensions, as discussed in the previous point, students who fail to pass the requirements by September 15<sup>th</sup> of their seventh semester will have an enrollment Hold placed on their record and receive a letter stating that if they fail to attain dissertator status by the first day of instruction of their eighth semester they will be dropped from the program.

## VI. Graduate School Rules: Credits and Minors

You also need to comply with Graduate School rules involving the minimum credit requirements and completing a Minor.

- A. The Graduate School establishes the minimum number of UW-Madison credits that you must have to receive a graduate degree. A Ph.D. requires 51 credits, at least half of which should be at the 700 or above. The Graduate School will not transfer any work done at another institution toward fulfillment of the minimum UW-Madison credit requirement. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in these courses to receive their degrees. All credits taken at UW-Madison, including those taken during the summer and at a distance, count toward this requirement so long as the course is considered a UW-Madison course.
- B. As you plan out your courses, you will need to be thinking about when to take courses to satisfy your Minor requirement. Many students focus on the Minor in the fall of their third year. You should think of the Minor as a chance to add some additional research skills, concentrate in an area in which you'd like some teaching competency, or focus on an area that you believe might be beneficial for your dissertation research. The Minor requirement can be met in two ways, Option A or Option B.
  1. Option A, "External Minor," requires a minimum of at least nine credits in a single department other than the Political Science department. This option requires the approval of the department in which the Minor is done, and that department might add specific criteria to meet. Your advisor also needs to give his/her approval.
  2. Option B, "Distributed Minor," requires a minimum of nine credits that can be taken in multiple outside departments or across subfields within the Political Science

department. These credits should provide an intellectually coherent theme within an area of study.

One possible path for the Distributed Minor is an “Internal Minor” in which all nine credits are taken in the Political Science department. The purpose of the Internal Minor is to broaden a student's perspective beyond the specific fields which constitute the student's preliminary examination fields. However, if a student can demonstrate to the Associate Chair and his or her advisor that a course within a tested field but outside a tested subfield fits within an intellectually coherent theme that complements and broadens a student's perspective and would constitute a legitimate Distributed Minor or Internal Minor, the student may petition to count that course toward the requirement. In all cases, such an exception will be limited to one course only. A student will not be allowed to count required courses (e.g., PS 800 or PS 817 and required coursework in statistical methods) toward a Minor. Up to three credits earned in departmental research workshops may be applied toward Internal Minors.

All Option B Minors require the approval of the student's advisor and the Associate Chair.

## VII. Financial Support

- A. Financial support in the department consists mainly of teaching assistantships and project assistantships. The department also makes nominations for a number of fellowships and hires advanced graduate students to design and teach courses as lecturers. The department ensures five years (ten consecutive semesters) of funding for students who are making normal progress. If you receive outside funding during those five years, the department's guarantee is not extended to additional years, but you will have high priority for funding beyond the fifth year. The guarantee of support assumes that you remain a graduate student in good standing with the department and that your teaching or other responsibilities are performed well. If either of these conditions are not met, your financial guarantee may be terminated.
- B. How are these positions allocated? The Associate Chair allocates a small number of project assistantships to incoming students; there is no application process for these positions. Otherwise, PA positions are posted by the faculty member who supervises the position. He or she evaluates applicants and then decides whom to hire.

Graduate-student lecturer (Lecturer SA) appointments typically have ABD status and are at an advanced stage of their graduate careers.

Teaching Assistant appointments are made by the Graduate Program Coordinator after soliciting course preferences from graduate students. In addition to student preferences, the following factors are taken into account when making TA appointments:

1. Normal progress. Students off normal progress receive lower priority for financial aid and may lose their guarantee of financial aid. If a student falls off normal

- progress after department TA appointments have been made, the student may continue in the position for the remainder of the appointed semester. A student may receive lower priority for TA positions in subsequent semesters, until he or she is back on normal progress.
2. Seniority in the program. Generally speaking, students who are further along in their program are more likely to get one of their top preferences, but this is by no means guaranteed. Other factors mentioned in this section, as well as department needs to staff particular courses are also considered.
  3. Qualifications. Students are given priority for courses in which they have expertise or prior teaching experience.
  4. Instructional needs of the department. This includes the balancing of junior and senior TAs in a course.
  5. A student who does not provide their TA preferences prior to the stated deadline may not be able to be accommodated with a TA appointment. Failure to comply with deadlines removes the department's obligation to find financial support for the student.
  6. Number of semesters a student has supported themselves with funding outside the department. Students who have supported themselves for one or more semesters through positions outside the department but are beyond their five years of guaranteed funding in the program will have top priority for funding in the sixth year and beyond. Those who have received ten semesters of funding from within the department will have lowest priority.
  7. Availability of funds.
- C. Except in exceptional circumstances, teaching-assistant, project-assistant, and lecturer (LSA) appointments will not be provided to students with fellowship funding.
- D. Every student is on probation for their first appointment as a teaching assistant or project assistant in the Political Science Department. Probation may be extended to a second semester.
- E. Each graduate student lecturer will be assigned a faculty mentor.

## VIII. Placement

Most people who finish the program look for academic jobs. Our graduate students work in all varieties of universities and colleges ranging from the most famous to the obscure. The job prospects of our graduate students are determined both by their ability and by the market conditions in their field. In some years, many quality jobs are advertised, in other years, relatively few. We can give you two assurances. First, Wisconsin's standing is such that you

will be considered seriously at whatever level of institution to which you are individually qualified to apply. Second, the department will give you all possible help in finding a suitable job.

- A. Your advisor and the Associate Chair will help you decide when you are ready to go on placement. The season usually begins in August with online job listings at the American Political Science Association website ([www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)). However, some listings are posted even earlier than this. It is your job to check the site frequently to read new listings and identify jobs that interest you.
- B. Neither the Associate Chair nor your advisor can answer questions about the type of institution (e.g., Liberal Arts College or Research University) or geographical region of the country in which you should work. You need to consider, therefore, what type of institution and what parts of the country you would like to work in. Be aware that the more flexible you are about regions and institutions in which you could work, the easier it will be to find a job.
- C. In general, you should not consider going on placement until you are sufficiently advanced with your thesis to have a minimum of two revised chapters that you feel are of the highest standard you can produce, and be sure that you will finish your dissertation within the academic year. Most quality departments are unwilling to accept on face value vague assurances that you will “defend some time next summer”; you will have to be able to convince them that you really are close to finishing a good dissertation. The more you have finished, the better, as you will be competing against students who have completed their dissertations as well as assistant professors looking to move to a new department.
- D. You need to arrange with at least three faculty members who know you well to place letters in the file. Give faculty plenty of time and adequate application material so that they can write strong letters.
- E. A meeting is held annually in May for people going on the job market. At this meeting, the Associate Chair will give you further information on placement. It is a good idea to attend this meeting the year before you plan to enter the job market to gain a sense of what lies ahead. The Associate Chair also examines all placement files and makes suggestions to you about how your file might be improved.

## IX. Professional Conduct

The Department of Political Science abides by the university’s code of academic conduct. Information about the university’s definitions, policies, and disciplinary sanctions are available at <https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#misconductacademic>. When an instructor suspects a student has committed academic misconduct in a non-course setting (conference papers, project assistantship, project data, etc.), he or she should notify the Associate Chair. The Associate Chair will consult with other faculty when appropriate and decide on a disciplinary sanction. Sanctions range from a written reprimand that may be placed in the student’s department file for

removal from the program. If a student is removed from the program, he or she is not removed from the university. The decision to remove the student from the university is part of the university's official misconduct review process. When an instructor suspects a student has committed academic misconduct in a course, he or she will be guided by the university's academic misconduct process. The instructor also has the option of recommending to the Associate Chair that the student be removed from the department's graduate program. The Associate Chair, after consultation with faculty, will decide whether this disciplinary action is appropriate.

Department faculty may ask applicants for project assistant positions whether they have been found to be in violation of academic conduct standards, either at this university or elsewhere.

The department faculty reminds students that they need to let faculty know if they are planning to submit a paper that is a revised version of a paper they have already written, or are submitting the same or a similar paper for more than one course. These plans must be cleared with faculty well ahead of time before submitting the paper: students should seek permission from the faculty member prior to beginning the revising or writing of the paper. The faculty considers the submission of "recycled" papers without prior faculty approval to be a breach of both the university's standards for academic conduct and our department's standards of academic integrity.

The Department of Political Science is committed to a professional and welcoming workplace environment for students of every background. Students are expected to abide by the department's "Statement on a Professional Workplace Environment" posted in the Graduate Student Lounge.

The department adheres to the university's policies on sexual and other forms of harassment. For further information on sexual harassment and the procedures for filing a complaint, consult the university's Dean of Students Office at <https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/reporting-allegations-of-sexual-assault-datingdomestic-violence-and-stalking/> or contact the Chair or Associate Chair.

## Department of Political Science University of Wisconsin-Madison

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## CHAPTER TWO

This chapter provides additional details on the departmental rules for the graduate program. Students should also be aware of the need to comply with the rules established by the Graduate School.

## I. The Masters of Arts

- A. To obtain an M.A., students must complete 30 credits of coursework with at least a 3.00 average. Grades below a C may not be counted for credit under any circumstances.
- B. At least 18 of the 30 credits must be in Political Science. No more than 3 credits of PS 999 can count toward the 18 credits.
- C. At least 15 of the 30 credits must be earned in graduate courses in Political Science at the 800 level or above.
- D. Courses taken outside the department must be chosen in consultation with a student's advisor and must be at a level (300 or above) for which graduate credit is available.

## II. The Ph.D.

- A. To achieve dissertator status and become ABD ("all but the dissertation") status, a student must:
  1. Meet with their advisor to discuss their First Year Assessment.
  2. Pass general preliminary exams from two of the following fields:
    - a. American Politics
    - b. Comparative Politics
    - c. International Relations
    - d. Political Methodology
    - e. Political Theory
  3. Take and pass Political Science as a Discipline and Profession (PS 800), Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry (PS 817), a Dissertation Workshop (PS 801), and three credits of statistical methods instruction.

4. Submit a conference level research paper for review by January 15, before the start of the sixth semester.
5. Complete the Graduate School minimum credit requirement of 32 credits and the Minor requirement.
6. Earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average.
7. Have no Incompletes.
8. Successfully defend a dissertation proposal before a committee of four faculty members

B. To receive the Ph.D., a student must also:

1. Have completed 51 credits of course work. This includes credits from PS 990: Research and Thesis.
2. Produce a dissertation of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge.
3. Pass a two-hour oral dissertation defense before a committee of at least four graduate faculty members. At least one of the four faculty members must represent a graduate field outside your major. Three positive votes are required to pass the defense.
4. Deposit an approved copy of the dissertation with the Graduate School.

### III. Ph.D. Requirements

#### A. Preliminary Exams

Each student will select a First Field and a Second Field. The First Field is the field within which the student expects to write a doctoral dissertation. The Second Field complements and supports the First Field and the student's intellectual and research interests. Students will indicate which fields they intend to test through submission of the Preliminary Exam Signup form. Each exam will be graded by or on behalf of field committees. Students are encouraged to work with other students in preparing for prelims, but the taking of prelims is an independent exercise.

##### 1. Scheduling of Exams

- a. All preliminary exams will be administered during the first two weeks of June following the student's fourth semester. The schedule of exams will vary each year, depending on how many students sign up for each exam and in what combination. Both the First Field and Second Field written exams for each subfield will be distributed simultaneously.

- i. For example, in a given year, it might be that the American Politics and Comparative Politics exams are distributed the first week, while in the second week the International Relations and Political Theory exams are distributed.
    - ii. The second-field methods review essay, which is not in an exam format, is due on the last day of the exam window.
  - b. With the exception of retakes, discussed below, only one sitting will be provided in any year.
  - c. In extraordinary circumstances, as noted elsewhere in the Graduate Guide, the Associate Chair may permit students to proceed outside the above schedule of exams.
2. Exam Procedures
  - a. The department's prelim exams are designed for students to display breadth and depth of knowledge and their ability to identify and discuss important research questions and directions in the field. Thus, based on the field's approach to assessing this, the exam format varies by field.
  - b. The first and second field American and Comparative exams and the second field Theory are exams with written responses taken during a 56-hour sitting.
    - i. Students will be given the list of questions for the entire exam at the start of the exam.
    - ii. Students taking the First Field exam in American must answer four of six questions. Students taking the First Field exam in Comparative Politics must answer three out of four questions. Answers for the first field American and Comparative exams are limited to 8,000 words for all questions combined or approximately 25 pages.
    - iii. Students taking the Second Field exam in American must answer two of six questions. Answers for the second field exams in American Politics exams are limited to 4,000 words for all questions combined or about 13 pages.
    - iv. Students taking the Second Field exam in Comparative Politics must answer two out of four questions. Answers for the second field exams in Comparative Politics exams are limited to 5,000 words for all questions combined, or about 15 pages.
    - v. For the Political Theory second field exam, students must answer three questions from three separate subfields. Answers for the exam are limited to 6,000 words for all questions combined or about 20 pages.
    - vi. Upon receipt of the preliminary exam questions, students may not discuss the exam questions or answers. Violations of this policy, as determined by the Associate Chair, will be grounds for a grade of "Deficient" on the exam.
    - vii. Students are allowed access to notes and other written materials while writing their exams. Inappropriate use of published or online materials that constitute academic misconduct as defined by the university, and as determined by the Associate Chair, will lead to a grade of Deficient on the exam. It is each

student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policy on academic misconduct.

- c. First and second field preliminary examinations in International Relations will be oral exams.
    - i. Exams will be scheduled in conjunction with the written exam cycle.
    - ii. The first field will be scheduled for 1.5 hours with an examining committee comprised of three faculty.
    - iii. The second field exam will be scheduled for one hour with an examining committee comprised of two faculty.
    - iv. Seminar papers from substantive IR courses must be uploaded for review by faculty no later than May 15th. This should include any ungraded papers for courses taken in the fourth semester.
  - d. The first field exam in Methods will consist of an oral exam and a review essay submitted no later than one week prior to the oral. The second field exam will require the student to submit a sophisticated review essay no later than the last day of the 2nd week of the exam window. If the paper is not submitted by this time, the student shall receive a Deficient for the exam.
  - e. The first field exam for Political Theory requires the student to complete a research paper according to the following sequence.
    - i. Submission of a seminar paper selected in consultation with their advisor. This paper must be substantially different from the paper required by the Department.
    - ii. Revise the paper based on feedback from the seminar instructor.
    - iii. Present the revised paper at the Political Theory Workshop during the fourth semester
    - iv. Prepare a memo outlining proposed revisions within one week of the presentation. The memo will be reviewed by a committee of three faculty.
    - v. Submit a revised paper, along with memo, by the end of the first week of June.
    - vi. The paper will be reviewed by a committee of three faculty and assessed a Pass or a Revise and Resubmit no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. If awarded a Revise and Resubmit, the revised paper must be completed and passed before the start of the fifth semester.
3. Grading of Exams
- a. Students will be notified of the results of their exam by the Graduate Program Coordinator as soon as they are known but no later than July 1st, or the first business day thereafter, with the exception of the Political Theory first field exam.
  - b. The department will also place in each student's department mailbox a letter indicating his or her grade on the exam. Grades will consist of Distinction, High Pass, Pass, and Deficient. A student receiving a grade of Deficient must retake the exam at the next sitting.

- c. If a student receives a grade of deficient on either examination on the first try, s/he would be required to retake the exam(s) mid-August of the same summer.
  - d. No exam may be taken more than two times. Failure of any exam twice is cause for removal from the program. Exceptions to this rule will be considered by the Appeal Committee, which shall grant exceptions in only the most extraordinary circumstances. The decision of the Appeal Committee is final.
  - e. The Appeal Committee will not consider appeals of prelim grades based on content.
4. Any field committee that wishes to change its exam policies from those set out in Chapter 2 will present the proposed changes to the Associate Chair who will forward them to the Graduate Program Committee and the department for comment and approval.
- B. Proposed Dissertation Ideas Consultation  
By September 15th of the 5th semester the student will meet with a minimum of two faculty to discuss at least two possible dissertation ideas. The student, in consultation with their advisor, will choose which faculty will be a part of the meeting.
- C. Dissertation Workshop  
All students are required to take and pass PS 801: Dissertation Workshop before or during the 5th semester.
- D. Research Paper Requirement  
A conference-level research paper written on topic in the student's first field must be submitted to the Associate Chair no later than "Last Day Grades In" set by the Academic Calendar for the 5th semester. In consultation with the respective field chairs, the Associate Chair will select two faculty to review the paper. The reviewers will assess the paper as a Pass or Revise and Resubmit by the Spring Semester Instruction Begins set by the Academic Calendar for the 6<sup>th</sup> semester. If the author receives an assessment of Revise and Resubmit, the student has until the "Last Day Grades In" for the 6th semester to submit a satisfactory paper.
- Unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Associate Chair, a student who fails to submit an acceptable conference-level paper by the end of the sixth semester will have a Hold placed on their records, blocking enrollment for the eighth semester.
- E. Dissertation Proposal Defense
1. Before the start of the seventh semester, each student will defend a dissertation proposal at a conference with his or her dissertation proposal committee. The proposal should clearly identify the research question or topic, establish the theoretical framework for the proposed topic, reference the relevant literature, and

describe in detail the proposed research design and methods. A proposal will typically be 20 to 30 pages in length.

2. The dissertation proposal committee will consist of a chair and at least three additional members. The chair of the committee will also be considered the student's advisor. One of these three additional members may be from a department outside Political Science.
3. One month before the scheduled defense date, the student will notify the Graduate Program Coordinator when the defense will take place. Students will need to be certain that they consult with their committee so that this deadline can be met. The student should circulate drafts of the proposal to committee members for comments in the months leading up to the one-month proposal preclearance. The version of the proposal to be discussed at the conference should be received by committee members two weeks prior to the conference.
4. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the defense so that a result can be communicated to the Graduate Program Coordinator before the start of the seventh semester. The Associate Chair, in consultation with the student's advisor, may grant extensions for those needing to take extensive language or methodological training or those students electing to pursue an M.A. degree or significant coursework in another department. Personal circumstances, as explained in Chapter One, can also be a valid reason for giving students more time to defend their dissertation proposals. The normal extension will be one semester for personal reasons or one to two semesters for academic reasons; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances.
5. The proposal defense will consist of two portions, the first of which encourages the participation of faculty and graduate students in Political Science and the second of which will be a workshop format involving only the student and the faculty committee members.

Both portions will be chaired by the student's advisor. For a defense to go forward, the student must announce the proposal title, a one-page abstract, and time and venue of the defense. At least one week before the defense, this information should be distributed via e-mail to department faculty and graduate students.

In the first portion of the defense, the student will make a brief presentation and there will be ample time for the student to field questions from the attendees. When the committee chair judges it appropriate, the defense will go into a closed session consisting only of the student and the faculty committee members.

This second portion of the defense will be a workshop format, the purpose of which is to provide the student and committee members with the opportunity to discuss the suggestions already provided as well as solicit further suggestions on specific issues from committee members. It would be appropriate for faculty to ask questions that

- require students to display mastery of the theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the dissertation topic.
6. The dissertation proposal committee will indicate approval of the proposal by submitting to the Associate Chair a form with the signatures of each committee member. The committee may approve the proposal pending minor revisions. The revised proposal will be due within one month following the defense. If more substantial revisions are necessary, the committee should withhold approval until the student has revised the proposal. Students should not assume that the proposal will be approved without a request for revisions.
  6. Following committee approval of the proposal, the student will provide a copy of the proposal to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Associate Chair will approve the proposal on behalf of the department. The student will also supply the Graduate Program Coordinator with a copy of the one-page abstract of the proposal.
  7. No student can defend the proposal with outstanding Incompletes. Incompletes must be resolved at least one week before the scheduled proposal defense. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the grade change has gone through.
  8. Unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Associate Chair, a student who fails to defend a proposal to the satisfaction of his/her committee by September 15th of their seventh semester will have a Hold placed on their records, blocking them from enrolling.

#### F. Dissertation

1. A dissertation (thesis) that is an original contribution to knowledge must be completed within five years following the attainment of ABD status. Graduate School rules provide that if the dissertation is not completed within five years of defending the dissertation proposal, the prelims may need to be retaken.
2. Students must comply with the university's rules on the format of the final version of Ph.D. theses, notably dissertation contributions received from other individuals. These individuals include co-authors of published work that appears in the document; those who assist in research design, execution, analysis, and reporting; and interpretation; and those who assist in writing, proofing and copyedit the dissertation. Guidance on these rules is available from the Academic Policies and Procedures of the Graduate School.
3. Students intending to submit a thesis for defense must contact the Graduate Program Coordinator in a timely manner (at least three weeks prior to defense date) to obtain necessary documents and allow the arrangements to be made for the defense.
4. Students are responsible for creating a dissertation committee. The committee members may be, but are not required to be, the same as those on the dissertation

- proposal committee. The final oral defense committee will consist of at least four members, three of whom must be UW-Madison graduate faculty or former UW-Madison faculty up to one year after resignation or retirement. The committee may have a chair and a co-chair, one of whom must be from the Political Science Department. One member of the committee must be from outside the discipline, and one member may be from outside the UW-Madison campus. The department encourages students to select the full set of committee members early in the dissertation research process.
5. The dissertation shall be defended at a two-hour oral exam before the dissertation committee. As with the proposal defense, this shall consist of an open session followed by a closed session.
  6. Copies of the dissertation shall be made available to members of the committee no later than two weeks before the oral defense.
  7. To successfully defend the dissertation, the committee must be satisfied that the dissertation is an original and significant contribution to knowledge, that the arguments of the thesis are presented coherently, and that the arguments of the thesis are supported adequately by evidence and documentation. The committee must also be satisfied that the student has a broad and intensive knowledge of the major field in which the thesis is written. At least three positive votes are required to pass the defense.
  8. An approved copy of the dissertation must be deposited with the Graduate School.

#### IV. Field Committee Policies

##### A. American Politics

The American Politics field covers all aspects of and approaches to American politics. Topics covered include but are not limited to political behavior, all institutions of government (Congress, the presidency, courts, and the bureaucracy), state and local government, parties and public policy, American political economy, interest groups, and social movements. Methodologies used by faculty in the field are wide-ranging including archival research, statistical analysis, and cultural analysis. The courses faculty offer and their own research cover both the workings of American political institutions and political behavior today on the one hand, and the broad sweep of American political development on the other.

1. The American politics field consists of the following subfields:
  - a. National Institutions
    - Presidency
    - Congress
    - Supreme Court
    - Bureaucracy

- b. Federalism and subnational politics
    - Federal system
    - State politics (including state and local institutions such as the judiciary, legislatures, and governors)
    - Urban politics
  - c. Political behavior
    - i. Mass and elite behavior (including political culture and political communication)
    - ii. Public opinion
    - iii. Socialization
    - iv. Elections
  - d. Policy, Political Economy, and Public Administration
  - e. Extragovernmental Organizations
    - Parties
    - Interest groups
    - Social movements
  - f. Constitutional Law and Administrative Law
2. Requirements
- a. Required Courses.
    - First Field: Quantitative techniques are so common in the literatures covered in the American Politics field that we require students whose First Field is American Politics to take PS 812 and PS 813 before taking the American Politics prelim. This requirement is intended to help students gain the ability to read critically books and articles using quantitative techniques; it does not imply that students are expected necessarily to use quantitative techniques in their own research.
    - Second Field: The requirement to take PS 812 and PS 813 does not apply to students whose Second Field is American politics. Students declaring American politics as their Second Field are required to take a minimum of three graded graduate courses in American politics. This requirement should be viewed as a minimum number of courses and students are strongly encouraged to take additional courses to prepare for their prelims.
3. Preliminary Exams
- a. A committee of three American Politics faculty will be responsible for writing prelim questions and grading the essays. The committee may consult other faculty for guidance on the content of questions and essays. The committee's evaluation will reflect the degree to which the essays display knowledge of scholarship in American Politics as well as the ability to make high-level analytical arguments. All questions will be weighted equally, and the field

committee strongly suggests that students apportion their time and total word count to reflect this.

- b. A High Pass signifies that the essays accurately describe key works in American Politics and demonstrate a high level of analysis and synthesis of the material. A Pass signifies that the essays accurately describe key works in American Politics and analyze the material at a satisfactory level. A Deficient grade signifies that the essays fail to demonstrate this knowledge and ability. Distinction is rarely awarded; it signifies exceptional knowledge, analysis, and synthesis.
  - i. **First Field:** Students will answer four questions of six questions. The questions will be drawn from across American Politics towards classes offered in the student's first two years of study. Students need not to declare subfields prior to the exam.
  - ii. **Second Field:** Students will answer two questions of six questions. The questions will be drawn from across American Politics with towards classes offered in the student's first two years of study.
4. Presentation requirements
  - a. Students are required to present a paper at the American Politics workshop at some point during their third year.
  - b. Students are required to present their job talk at the American Politics Workshop in the fall of any year that they are on the market.
5. Internal Minor:  
No special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in American Politics.

## B. Comparative Politics

1. Requirements
  - a. Foreign languages: All students studying Comparative Politics as a First Field are expected to achieve reasonable proficiency in the foreign language or languages most relevant to their dissertation research. The specific language or languages, as well as the necessary degree of proficiency, will vary from region to region and theme to theme, and is thus left to the discretion of the major advisor. There is no foreign language requirement for students doing Comparative Politics as a Second Field.
  - b. Required courses: All students doing Comparative Politics as either a First or a Second Field must take PS 856, the Comparative Field Seminar. This seminar introduces students to the primary works in the field. The syllabus for PS856, which will be regularly updated, will be the starting basis for the preliminary examination in Comparative Politics.

- c. **Presentation Requirements:** Students are required to present and defend a two-page single-spaced proposal for pre-dissertation field research at the beginning of their third semester. This takes place at dissertation workshops in specially convened sessions of the Comparative Politics Colloquium. Students should consider this the beginning of focused consultation with faculty about dissertation research. By August 1 of the summer preceding the third semester, students must obtain preliminary approval of the proposal by two Comparative Politics faculty members selected by the student in consultation with his or her advisor, who may be one of the two faculty members. The proposal should outline the dissertation project proposed methods of research, explain the disciplinary contributions and intellectual merits of the research, justify the necessity of field research, and highlight the student's abilities to carry out the proposed research. These are also the guidelines for the university's Institute for Regional and International Studies Fieldwork Award, for which students may wish to apply. Within a month of the presentation, the student must revise the proposal to reflect advice offered at the presentation as well as further consultation with faculty after the presentation. The same two faculty members who approved the preliminary proposal must approve the revised version.
  - d. **Methodology:** All students of Comparative Politics are governed by the department's methodology requirements.
2. Preliminary Exams
- a. For the purposes of the preliminary examination, the field of Comparative Politics consists of eight regions: Africa, East Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.
  - b. A committee of three Comparative Politics faculty will be responsible for writing prelim questions and grading the essays. The committee may consult other faculty for guidance on the content of questions and essays. The committee's evaluation will reflect the degree to which the essays display knowledge of scholarship in Comparative Politics and, as applicable, the politics of a region, as well as the ability to make high-level analytical arguments. A Deficient grade signifies that the essays fail to demonstrate this knowledge and ability. A Pass signifies that the essays accurately describe key works in Comparative Politics and analyze the material at a satisfactory level. A High Pass signifies that the essays accurately describe key works in Comparative Politics and demonstrate a high level of analysis and synthesis of the material. Distinction is rarely awarded; it signifies exceptional knowledge, analysis, and synthesis. All questions will be weighted equally, and the field committee strongly suggests that students apportion their time and total word count to reflect this.
    - **First Field:** All students studying Comparative Politics as a First Field will answer three questions from two options. Students should declare in advance of the exam which of the two options they have chosen.
      - (a) Option 1: Students choose a region from the above list and answer one question from a choice of two questions on that region. In addition,

students answer two questions from a choice of four questions on Comparative Politics generally.

(b) Option 2: Students do not choose a region and answer three questions from a choice of four questions on Comparative Politics generally.

- **Second Field:** Students taking Comparative Politics as a Second Field will answer two questions from a choice of three questions on Comparative Politics generally.

3. Internal Minor:

Requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) are PS 856 and two additional courses at the 800-900 level.

4. Exceptions to these requirements can be requested by petition to the Associate Chair, who will make a determination after consultation with the major advisor and the field committee.

C. International Relations

1. The International Relations field is divided into five principal subfields listed below. Prelim exam questions may come from any of the five subfields. Listed under each subfield are some of the important topics studied in that subfield.

- a. Theories of International Relations
  - i. Bargaining
  - ii. Cooperation
  - iii. Socialization
- b. International Security
  - i. War and terrorism
  - ii. Arms proliferation and arms control
  - iii. Alliances
- c. International Political Economy
  - i. Trade
  - ii. Finance
- d. Global Social Issues
  - i. The environment
  - ii. Human rights
  - iii. Migration
- e. International Institutions
  - i. International organizations
  - ii. International law

2. Requirements
  - a. Students choosing International Relations as a First Field must take PS 857: International Relations Theories, and at least three additional courses in the field. Within the elective courses, students must complete one course each in two of the five subfields listed above.
  - b. Students choosing International Relations as a Second Field must take PS 857: International Relations Theories, and at least two additional courses in the field.
3. Preliminary exams
  - a. The IR field chair will announce the composition of the exam committees no later than May 1st.
  - b. **First Field**
    - The oral exam will be 1.5 hours with a committee of three faculty members.
    - The exam would cover IR theory and two subfields of five in IR selected by the student as s/he completes the distributional requirements
    - At least one week prior to the date of the oral exams, students will provide the faculty members on the oral exam committee copies of all the major written assignments completed in IR courses during their first 2 years. This would include ungraded 4th semester work. The department will establish a secure online portal where students may upload their work.
  - c. **Second field**
    - The oral exam will be one hour with a committee of two faculty members.
    - The exam would cover IR theory and at least one of the five IR selected by the student.
    - At least one week prior to the date of the oral exams, students will provide the faculty members on the oral exam committee copies of all the major written assignments completed in IR courses during their first 2 years. This would include ungraded 4th semester work. A UW-Box account will be created to allow the students to upload their work.
4. Internal Minor:

There are no special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in International Relations.

#### D. Political Methodology

1. The Political Methodology field consists of three subfields:
  - a. Research Design and Data Collection
  - b. Statistical Methods
  - c. Computation Formal Theory
2. Requirements:

Completion of a program of study approved by the methods chair. The program should involve course work in the three sub-fields (research design and data

collection, statistical methods and computation, and formal theory) to ensure breadth. This breadth requirement will normally be satisfied by one course in Research Design and Data Collection, one course in Formal Theory, and three courses in Statistics and Computation (normally PS 812, PS 813, and an elective).

### 3. Preliminary Exams

#### a. **First Field**

- Students testing in Methods as a First Field will generally complete at least eight methods courses.
- Students testing in Methods as a First Field must complete an essay that reviews some methodological issue in a sophisticated way. The essay should be focused, provide a synthesis of the relevant literature, and be presented at a level appropriate for a general political science audience. It may include formal analysis, simulations, or other devices as appropriate for completing an effective review. The essay would be assessed as either satisfying the requirement or not satisfying it by two members of the faculty designated by the methods chair. Papers assessed as not satisfying the requirement may be revised and resubmitted once based on the written feedback of faculty readers. These same two faculty members will read the revised version. Students should consult with the field chair about their selection of topics.
- All those taking methods as a First Field must pass an oral examination of questions based on the three main subfields of Political Methodology.

#### b. **Second Field**

- Students testing in Methods as a Second Field will complete at least six methods courses.
- Students testing in Methods as a Second Field must complete an essay that reviews some methodological issue in a sophisticated way. The essay should be focused, provide a synthesis of the relevant literature, and be presented at a level appropriate for a general political science audience. It may include formal analysis, simulations, or other devices as appropriate for completing an effective review. The essay would be assessed as either satisfying the requirement or not satisfying it by two members of the faculty designated by the methods chair. Papers assessed as not satisfying the requirement may be revised and resubmitted once based on the written feedback of faculty readers. These same two faculty members will read the revised version. Students should consult with the field chair about their selection of topics.

4. There are no special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in Political Methodology. The required statistical methodology course may not count for any of the nine credits.

### E. Political Theory

Students who take Political Theory as a First Field or Second Field are expected to have a strong grasp of modern and contemporary political philosophy, and a basic understanding of ancient and medieval political thought. Furthermore, students are expected to be

familiar and conversant with the central issues and debates that have animated thought within these two broad domains of Political Theory. Beyond these basics, students are encouraged to focus on areas of greatest interest to them.

1. Political Theory consists of six major subfields:
  - a. Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy
  - b. Early Modern Political Philosophy
  - c. Modern Political Philosophy
  - d. Contemporary Political Theory
  - e. Continental Political Theory
  - f. Law and Legal Theory
  
2. Requirements
  - a. Students specializing in Political Theory as a First Field are required to take PS 839: Methods of Political Theory. In addition, students are required to take a minimum of three graduate courses in a minimum of three areas distributed as follows:
    - i. One course in Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy,
    - ii. One course in either Early Modern or Modern Political Theory,
    - iii. One course in Continental Political Theory, Contemporary Political Theory or Law and Legal Theory.
  
  - b. Students pursuing Political Theory as a Second Field are required to take PS 839: Methods of Political Theory. In addition, students are required to take at least one course or its equivalent in either modern or contemporary political philosophy, and one course in ancient and medieval political thought.
  
  - c. No special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in Political Theory. .
  
3. Preliminary Exams
  - a. **First Field**  
 Students testing in Political Theory as a First Field must select a seminar paper in consultation with the student's advisor. The student's advisor will work with the student in preparing the presentation and writing the revision memo following the presentation. The paper should be identified no later than one month before the presentation deadline.  
  
 Revise the seminar paper based on feedback from the seminar instructor. The seminar instructor will notify the Political Theory Field Chair when the paper has been satisfactorily revised. The revised paper is to be submitted to the Political Theory Workshop Coordinator no less than one week prior to the workshop.  
  
 The Field Chair will appoint a committee of three theory faculty prior to the scheduled presentation of the paper at the Workshop. The Field Chair will also appoint a chair for the committee.

Present the revised seminar paper at Political Theory Workshop prior to the third Friday in March of the fourth semester. The Political Theory Field Chair will coordinate with the Political Theory Workshop Coordinator to find a time for the paper presentation. In rare circumstances, the student may be required by the committee to re-present the paper due to an unsatisfactory presentation.

Write up a memo outlining proposed revisions. This memo is to be submitted no later than one week after the presentation and is to be approved within two weeks by the committee of three theory faculty. If the committee does not approve the memo, the chair of the committee will provide written feedback to assist the student in revising the memo. Submit a revised paper, along with memo, to the committee of three by the end of the first week of the department's qualifying exam period, which is typically the second Friday in June.

The committee will evaluate the revised paper and assign one of four grades: Distinction, High Pass, Pass, or Deficient. The student will be notified of this decision no later than July 1. If the paper is Deficient, the student will be instructed to revise and resubmit the paper a second time. The revised paper must be completed, submitted, and passed no later than the first day of instruction of the fifth semester. If this revised paper is not accepted, the student will receive a second mark of Deficient.

The Theory preliminary paper must be substantially different from any department-level research paper requirement, even if there is overlap in topic between the papers.

**b. Second Field**

Students testing in Political Theory as a second field must take a written exam during the exam window. Students will answer three questions from three separate subfields of Political Theory.

Second Field Political Theory Prelims will be evaluated in the following fashion: A Pass signifies that the essays accurately answer the exam questions, analyze the material at a satisfactory level, and engage in a satisfactory level of synthesis. A High Pass signifies that the essays accurately answer the exam questions, analyze the material at a high level, and engage in a high level of synthesis. Distinction is rarely awarded; it signifies exceptional knowledge, analysis, and synthesis. A Deficient grade signifies that the essays fail to demonstrate sufficient knowledge, analysis, and synthesis.

**c. Internal Minor**

No special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in Political Theory.

## V. Political Science/Law Dual Degree (PhD/JD) Program

The Political Science Department and Law School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison invite students to enroll in a Dual-Degree Program (“the Program”) whereby students can earn both a Ph.D. and a J.D. with a course of study and writing requiring approximately seven years to complete.

The Program involves meeting the individual requirements for each of the two degrees, but also allows work taken in Political Science to count toward the J.D. program and the J.D. program to fulfill some requirements of the Ph.D. program.

### A. Admission

Students in the Program must be admitted independently by the Political Science Department and the Law School, each of which will use their normal admissions criteria and procedures. Students need not be admitted to the Law School and Political Science Department simultaneously, although concurrent admission will be the normal procedure. Students interested in joining the Program are strongly encouraged to discuss their individual plans and goals with a member of the Advisory Committee before applying and to maintain contact during the application process.

### B. Administrative Provisions

1. Each student must have a faculty advisor in the Law School and the Political Science Department. A single member of the faculty who has a dual tenure or tenure-track appointment in the Law School and Political Science Department may serve both functions. If the student has separate advisors, the advisors shall coordinate their advice.
2. Although a student may take courses exclusively in the Law School or the Political Science Department in any given semester, the student shall be considered a “continuing student” in both programs. Hence, it is not necessary for the student to take a leave of absence or make a request for re-entry, as long as he or she is enrolled in courses in one of the two units.
3. The Law School and the Political Science Department will work together to develop a method of identifying dual-degree candidates, coordinating information about admission to the programs, etc. When it is determined that a student is admitted to both programs and that matriculation in one will be deferred, the Admissions Committee of the deferred program will be notified. However, the affected student is strongly encouraged to check with a member of the Advisory Committee to confirm that all necessary procedures have been completed.
4. The Advisory Committee shall take responsibility for seeing that the student’s program is well integrated and pedagogically sound.

5. A student shall be graded under the respective grading systems and criteria for permitting students to continue in the degree programs that the Law School and Political Science Department normally use.
6. Tuition and fees for most semesters will be billed according to a combined fee schedule set by the UW Registrar's Office.

C. Course of Study

This course of study is flexible, permitting a student, in consultation with his or her faculty advisors, to develop a personalized program meeting the student's individual educational needs. Under this course, a student is encouraged or expected to undertake specified actions but may decline to do so if the student's advisors approve of the decision. Program rules are stated in the absolute. Students may seek waiver of these rules as well as the general rules of the Law School or Political Science Department by following the normal procedures for those entities. All law students may petition the faculty Petitions Committee from relief from Law School rules. When students plan their 75 law credits, they must keep in mind that the course requirements for students seeking only the J.D. degree are different from the course requirements for those seeking the J.D. degree with "diploma privilege" (admission to the State Bar of Wisconsin without taking the state bar examination).

D. General Rules

1. All students in the Program must participate in activities of the Institute of Legal Studies at the Law School, including scheduled lectures, seminars, and fellows' workshops throughout their residency in Madison.
2. During the first three years, students must complete one full academic year of study in the Law School and two full academic years of study in the Political Science Department. The normal sequence is described below.

E. Year 1 –First year of Political Science

A student's first year program must be approved by his or her advisors. During the first year in the Political Science Department, a student is expected to take courses only in the Political Science Department, including Political Science 800. During the second semester of the first year in the Political Science Department, a student may take law-related course outside the Law School (including courses cross-listed with the Law School).

F. Year 2 –First year of Law School

The first year of the Law School's curriculum has little flexibility. During the second semester, students may choose from a designated set of electives, and students in the dual-degree program should, if possible, choose an elective that maximizes the students' educational progress in both programs. For example, a dual degree student might take a Political Science course during the second semester in place of one of the designated set of electives. Students who opt to substitute a Political Science course for a second semester elective may need to take the missed elective in their

third year to conform with the Law School's requirement that the first year curriculum be completed within two years from matriculation in law school.

#### G. Year 3 – Second Year in Political Science Department

1. Year 3 will focus on the course work necessary to complete preparation for the preliminary examinations in Political Science. Students in the Program will normally complete these examinations during the summer after the third year.
2. In June of Year 3, students must complete the standard Political Science Department preliminary examinations in a First Field and Second Field (drawn from among American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and methodology). Students must meet the requirements of any of these fields they choose, including methods requirements. Dual degree students will normally have American politics as one of their fields, and include within that area one subfield that is law-related (most often, law and judicial process, but also possibly subfields such as policy or national institutions).
3. Students who have another field as their primary field should have one subfield within that field be law-related. This deadline may be extended according to standard Political Science Department policies for students who undertake extensive foreign language or political methodology study (when methods is not one of the student's fields).

#### H. Year 4 and thereafter

After the successful completion of the preliminary examinations, the student will complete additional coursework in political science in preparation for the dissertation research, and complete the law school curriculum for the J.D. The student's advisors will work with the student and the Law School administration to ensure as much of the Political Science course work as possible counts toward the Law degree; final determination of what does count will be decided by the Law School. The coursework in the Law School will fulfill the Graduate School's Minor requirement.

A graduate student may receive up to 15, but not more than 15, advanced standing credits for courses in the Political Science Department and other University of Wisconsin departments to apply toward the J.D. degree under Law School Rule 3.16 or its successor. These credits will not be credited toward the J.D. until the student has successfully completed the prelims. As provided by this Rule, a student may receive advanced standing credits for courses taken before or after the student completed the master's degree. Courses offered for advanced standing must be relevant to interdisciplinary legal studies but need not specifically have a law or Political Science content. Reading, research, or dissertation credits are eligible for advanced standing.

Note: Law School Rule 3.16 permits a student in a dual program in law and other graduate fields to receive up to 15 advanced standing credits under certain conditions. These conditions include that the courses be of substantial relevance to the legal

- aspects of the student's dual program and taken under a plan approved by the student's law school faculty advisor. The credits will not be accepted by the Law School until the students has been formally admitted to the Ph.D. program.
- I. A student may participate in all activities available to law students following the normal rules. These activities include, but are not limited to, participation in a law journal, moot court, clinical programs, study abroad, and directed reading, or research. However, because students in the Program already have 15 credits of electives waived under paragraph (5), if they wish to take advantage of the “diploma privilege,” their ability to pursue the electives just mentioned will be limited.
  - J. “Normal Progress” Requirements in Political Science  
In general, to make normal progress through the dual degree program you need to meet the criteria listed elsewhere in the Grad Guide with the exception that you must take and pass two general prelims before the start of the eighth semester rather than before the start of the sixth semester. Students requiring extensive language or methodological training may be granted one extra semester, as determined by the Associate Chair. Three or more courses in foreign language or methods (not including the required research design course or the required statistics credits) constitute extensive training and qualify a student for this extension of normal progress. If a student takes the Methods prelim, methods courses are considered part of general preliminary exam preparation and do not qualify for an extra semester.
  - K. Financial Support  
Students admitted to the program will be guaranteed five years of financial support from the Political Science department; however, Political Science Department funding may not be used during the first year of Law School study. Outstanding students admitted to the dual degree program will be eligible for possible scholarship funding for one year from the Law School, as part of the Law School’s normal merit-based financial aid program, to assist during year 2 of the overall program. While neither Law nor Political Science is able to guarantee funding beyond year 6, the high demand for teaching assistantships and empirical research skills related to law make it highly likely that funding will be possible for these years.

## VI. Students Entering the Law School and Political Science Department at Different Times

- A. A student entering the Law School and Political Science Department at different times must comply with and may take advantage of the general rules described above except as otherwise provided in this section.
- B. The Advisory Committee may approve waivers of the rules regarding the first two years of the program.
- C. Law School Rule 3.16(7)(a)(2) authorizes advance standing credits for graduate work done prior to students becoming dual degree candidates. Under Rule 3.16(7)(a), a

student may receive advanced standing credit when he or she has successfully completed the first year of Law School, has been formally admitted to the Ph.D. portion of a graduate program, has a Law School faculty advisor, and if the course work was of substantial relevance to the legal aspects of the student's dual program and has been approved as such by the student's law school faculty advisor. As noted in A.4 above, a maximum of 15 advanced standing credits will be granted for graduate work taken at the University of Wisconsin. The student may not receive advanced standing credits for course work taken at institutions other than the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Credits are granted upon approval of a petition to the Law School's Petition Committee with the written support of the Dean or the Dean's designee and the student's law school faculty advisor.

Note: While students in dual J.D.-Masters programs may not use masters credits for advanced standing if the masters has been completed before entering law school, that rule does not apply to J.D.-Ph.D. students.

Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Version 4.1– August 2017

### CHAPTER THREE

This chapter is meant to be an informal aid to students who are considering whether to pursue a particular field. It does not set out the rules for the program, which are found in Chapter Two. In addition to the fields and subfields, many possibilities are open to you in terms of developing your own set of courses that do not fall within a particular field, and you should ask your advisor, the Associate Chair, and other faculty how to pursue it. This self-defined collection of courses might be a good candidate for a Minor.

#### I. American Politics

- A. Students in this field will prepare in virtually any aspect of American politics. The field encompasses the study of the structure and dynamics of mass behavior and opinion and of the major governmental and extragovernmental institutions, their interrelationships, their historical evolution and their role in the policy process. Specifically, the field covers the major national government institutions (presidency, Congress, bureaucracy and courts); subnational governments and the federal system; extragovernmental organizations such as parties, interest groups and social movements; the behavior and opinions of elites and masses who operate within these institutions and organizations who may seek (as in the case of elections and voting) to influence them; the impact of institutions, organizations, and actors on public policy; the determinants of public policy; the legal and constitutional context in which politics occurs; and changes in all of these elements and their relations with each other and with society over time.
- B. Although students cannot rely solely on formal instruction to prepare for the prelim, the following graduate level courses should be useful:

PS 814	Social Identities: Definition and Measurement
PS 821	Mass Political Behavior
PS 823	Political Psychology
PS 825	Race and Politics in the United States
PS 826	The Legislative Process
PS 827	Interest Groups in American Politics
PS 828	The Contemporary Presidency: Issues and Approaches
PS 829	Political Communication
PS 836	Formal Models of Domestic Politics
PS 863	The Judicial Process
PS 865	The Supreme Court and the Constitution in American Politics

PS 871	Public Program Evaluation
PS 873	American Political Parties
PS 874	Policy-Making Process
PS 875	Public Personnel Administration
PS 878	Public Management
PS 881	American Political Development
PS 885	Advanced Public Management: Craft, Constraints and Accountability
PS 890	Federal Budget and Tax Policy and Administration
PS 900	Topics in Political Science Seminar: American Politics
PS 904	Topics vary; frequently offered seminars include “Classics in American Politics,” “Major Themes in American Politics,” and “Seminar in American Politics”
PS 905	Seminar: American Public Policy
PS 915	Seminar: Urban Politics
PS 945	Seminar: National Security Affairs
PS 953	Seminar: American Foreign Policy
PS 963	Seminar: Law and Politics
PS 969	Seminar: Trends and Issues in Public Planning
PS 989	American Politics Workshop

### C. Subfields in American Politics

Subfields are listed in Chapter Two. Most of the subfields are self-explanatory. Two subfields need further explanation, however.

#### 1. Extragovernmental Organizations

The Extragovernmental Organizations subfield is, as the name suggests, concerned with the study of politically active organizations that are not formally part of the government. It includes, but is not limited to, the study of political parties and interest groups. Students are required in the prelim to display a knowledge of the literatures on parties and interest groups. Other topics that have been included in this subfield have included social movements and the media as an institution.

The parties literature included in this subfield covers the internal organization of political parties as well as party systems. All types of interest groups (business, labor, consumer, civil rights, etc.) are covered as well as topics such as lobbying, political action committees and collective action problems that affect the interest group system as a whole.

#### 2. Policy, Political Economy, and Public Administration

Political economy and public administration are among the oldest of social sciences. As long as there have been governments, individuals have been concerned about how government should act in economy and society. They have studied ways of

improving government's performance. And as long as governments have been administering policy, analysts have examined the effects of those policies on individual citizens as well as on national and international economies. The public policy approach is one of political science's more recent efforts to understand how government institutions work together to fashion decisions, how those decisions are translated into action, and what results those actions produce.

The subfield thus embodies several fascinating and interlocking issues:

- a. *Process.* Unlike other parts of American government, which tend to focus on the behavior of individual levels of government (such as the national, state, or local governments) or of individual institutions (such as executives, legislatures, and courts), the subfield takes a crosscutting approach. It examines how the actions of governments and institutions operate through predictable processes to produce a set of decisions we call "policies."
- b. *Policies.* The subfield also gives a special vantage point for tracking individual issues, such as housing, economic development, regulation, or budgeting through the political process. Focusing on the issues instead of the institution enhances our understanding of the interconnections among processes and institutions.
- c. *Administration.* All too often, political officials and analysts alike assume that decisions, once made, lead easily to execution. We know from the newspaper headlines, however that the road to policy implementation is almost always far bumpier than anyone expects. This subfield helps us understand how decisions become translated into results.
- d. *Results.* To understand results requires the development of sophisticated analytical tools. Economics especially provides a useful apparatus for understanding policy decisions. These decisions frequently produce important distributional consequences: among regions of a country, among different income groups, along racial lines, and even among nations.
- e. *Values.* Simply identifying results, of course, is not enough. Careful analysis also requires the development of techniques for understanding their normative dimensions: what policy results are good or bad for different groups; and what policy changes would be desirable to change this balance.
- f. *Theory.* Students of public policy use a variety of kinds of political theory. At times, they apply political philosophy to the normative issues of what governments should do and how they should do it. At times, their analyses call for economic, sociological, or psychological theories. They also draw on empirical political theory to design their research into the policy process and its effects.

The study of policy, political economy, and public administration thus has several important dimensions: an understanding of the crosscutting features of the policy process; knowledge of how policy decisions are administered; the ability to identify

and judge policy results; and the perspective to fit these results into the broader political economy and social policy.

The academic job market has developed a high demand for this subfield. Its training is also useful for students interested in research positions in government agencies and in research centers.

The subfields special strength—its remarkable breadth and flexibility— also presents obvious problems. How can the student shape it into a clear and manageable body of work? How can a student tailor it to match his or her special interests?

*Recommended Courses.* Students will usually find it useful to begin with two courses that probe the subfield’s basic issues:

PS 874     The Policy-Making Process  
 PS 878     Public Management

Beyond these two courses, students develop a personalized program of study with the Field Chair, their faculty advisers, and with other faculty members in the field. The subfield’s great flexibility makes it especially important that students consult closely with the subfield’s faculty members and carefully work out a program of study.

PS 875     Public Personnel Management  
 PS 885     Advanced Public Management: Craft, Constraints and Accountability  
 PS 890     Federal Budget and Tax Policy and Administration  
 PS 905     Seminar: American Public Policy

Other courses are offered periodically. Students should contact their advisors to work out a program. Course syllabi are an excellent guide for prelim preparation.

## II. Comparative Politics

- A. Comparative Politics is one of the oldest fields of political analysis, forming the basis for much of the writings of political philosophers throughout the ages. It was only in the nineteenth century, however, that the comparative method was first formally proposed as a means for elevating political thought to the level of a “science.” But like any field of intellectual endeavor, there is no consensus among those who study comparative politics concerning what the field is about. In particular, comparativists have found themselves pulled between two poles: that of the area-specialist and that of the social scientist. In some ways this tension is paralleled by two equally pervasive tensions: between those who are primarily inductive in their approach and those preferring a more deductive orientation; as well as a tension between those who are primarily oriented toward qualitative rather than quantitative methods. To be sure, some specialized knowledge is necessary to penetrate the politics of any society. That society-specific knowledge is all the more important when examining the politics of a foreign country. If one of the

purposes of comparing politics is to escape ethnocentrism, then area-specific knowledge is that body of knowledge that allows one to transcend the boundaries of one's own culture. It is sometimes tempting in an American university setting to define comparative politics as the study of foreign (i.e., non-American) political systems. Indeed, many comparativists (particularly those subscribing wholly to an area-studies understanding of the field) view their roles as interpreters of the politics of foreign cultures. But interesting and significant work has been conducted studying American politics within a comparative perspective, and given the culture-transcending purposes of comparison, it seems proper to include American politics within the boundaries of the field as well. Moreover, the theoretical concerns of comparativists are in no way confined to the boundaries of any one culture, and even those who are inspired primarily by a desire to better understand other places and cultures often find that to do so most effectively they need to orient their primarily inductive empirical work along broadly comparative and deductive theoretical axes.

- B. What, then, distinguishes comparative politics from other fields of political science? After all, political theorists and Americanists also study the causes of political change, the problems inherent in organizing a government or an economy, what motivates people to behave the way they do in politics, and the interactions between states and their societies. Some of the subjects that comparativists study (e.g., political economy, the politics of economic development, civil-military relations) are also studied in international relations.
1. The differences between comparative politics and other fields of political science are cumulative, not exclusive, since all fields of political science to some extent overlap. Essentially, they boil down to the combined effect of three factors: scope, object, and method.
    - a. Like international relations and political theory but unlike the study of American politics, comparative politics is global in scope. It is assumed that what Africanists have to say about ethnic politics within their context may be of relevance for understanding aspects of ethnic politics within the Russian context or within the Malaysian context.
    - b. Unlike international relations, comparative politics takes as its object of explanation some aspect of the domestic politics of states; while the international system may be an explanatory factor in an analysis, it is not the primary object of explanation among comparativists.
    - c. Third, there is the issue of method. The comparative method in the social sciences was originally conceived as a substitute for the experimental method used in the natural sciences. Not all comparativists subscribe to this positivist notion of comparative politics. But both those comparativists who utilize the comparative method and those who reject it view their work as grounded in empirical observation. Comparativists, therefore, whether primarily inductive or deductive in their orientation have a serious commitment to the importance of relevant language training and extended field research as a major methodological

tool of their trade. The comparative method, in other words, is primarily an empirical approach to studying politics that may rely heavily on both inductive and deductive reasoning. In its empirical grounding, comparative politics also differs in degree from political theory, which is more oriented heavily towards normative and moral reasoning.

2. The division between the area-studies and social science approaches to comparative politics need not polarize the field. It potentially provides for a creative tension and synthesis between fact and paradigm, and to a great extent both area-studies and comparative political theory have been mutually dependent on one another. One may view comparative politics as a combination of theoretical themes and geographical areas.
  - a. Themes:

Contentious Politics and Violence	Other concentrations such as:
Political Economy	Politics and Gender
Political Institutions	Law and Comparative Politics
Social Identities and Culture	Comparative Political Behavior
Regime Types and Transitions	Public Policy
State and Society	

*Contentious Politics and Violence:* The study of contentious politics and violence brings together two related bodies of research and inquiry in comparative politics that have received a great deal of attention from scholars in recent decades. “Contentious politics” primarily signals the study of social movements, both violent and nonviolent, that seek to create change and usually originate outside the state. The study of “violence” is a slightly broader area and one that incorporates analysis of civil war, ethnic conflict, riots, genocide, terrorism and other forms of politically-inspired physical harm. Analysis of violence focuses equally on state and non-state actors. While studies of conflict in international relations are related to this thematic area of research in comparative politics, scholars working in the tradition of the latter generally study violence within states rather than between or across states.

*Political Economy:* An economy is an ensemble of institutions whereby goods and services are produced, distributed, and consumed. Economies are embedded within political and social contexts, and political economy highlights the interaction between politics and the economy. For the purpose of the comparative politics preliminary exam, the focus is on work that primarily analyzes how political and social variables affect economic outcomes. These outcomes might include economic growth, economic reform (liberalization, privatization), redistribution of economic resources (e.g., the welfare state), the role of the state in markets and economic systems (capitalism vs. socialism as well as varieties of capitalism), and other economic events (e.g. financial crises). We hasten to add that although the focus of political economy for the preliminary exam is on economic outcomes, political economy broadly understood would also include work where economic variables affect political outcomes and where both types of

variables are at work simultaneously. In addition, for comparative political economy (CPE) the focus is on economic outcomes at the state level and below. International political economy (IPE) addresses economic interactions beyond country boundaries, including the politics of the world economy, the political economy of particular world regions, and the political dimensions of non-state and multistate actors such as transnational corporations and international financial institutions. While IPE is, of course, related to comparative political economy, the political economy field in the comparative politics preliminary exam will be confined to CPE.

*Political Institutions:* This theme deals with the comparative study of state and non-state, formal and informal political institutions, in both theoretical and empirical terms. It considers different definitions of political institutions, as well as their creation, function, evolution, and effects.

Examples of political institutions include: executive and political leadership (e.g., the presidency or cabinet); legislative organization and behavior; executive-legislative relations; political parties, and party systems; electoral systems and elections; interest groups; public bureaucracy; political group organization; comparative law; courts and legal enforcement; civil-military relations; and federalism and subnational government.

*Social Identities and Culture:* National identity, ethnicity, and other social identities such as race, religious identity, class, and gender are of paramount importance in contemporary politics. Groups and individuals continuously construct, maintain, and reconstruct these and other social identities in ways that are significant politically, sometimes creating new interests and constituencies and sometimes giving rise to political conflict. The very diversity associated with multiple identities gives rise to the politics of cultural pluralism in its many guises. Culture — or the values, attitudes, belief systems, and largely unquestioned understandings of political life — forms the dense field of symbolic meanings on which individuals and groups fashion and understand both political perceptions and political behavior.

*Regime Types and Transitions:* The nature of the political system, i.e., the type of political regime, has a large impact on political processes and outcomes. Authoritarian regimes come in a variety of quite diverse forms (monarchical, Leninist, sultanist, personal, military, clientelist, fascist, right populist, etc.). Democracies run the gamut from robust to shallow.

Transitions can occur in any direction: from authoritarian to democratic regimes, from one kind of authoritarianism to another, and democracies can break down and become authoritarian regimes. Within a democratic regime, a transition can occur which makes the system far more democratic or democratic robustness can greatly ebb. Finally, political systems can fail in diverse ways, producing secession, failed states and/or civil war. Beyond the study of transitions and

regime types, important questions are posed about the relation of regime type to growth, equity, communalist relations, gender, stability, war, peace, etc.

*State and Society:* This theme is broadly concerned with the character and interconnection of states and societies. The literature under this theme includes state centered analyses that explore the impact of the state on society; scholarship on forms of state-society synergies, complementarities, and mutual engagement; as well as studies in which the state's authority and legitimacy are contested by social actors. Issues of importance under this theme include the autonomy of the state from society, dominant classes, or transnational political and economic interests and actors; the strength of the state and its capacity to regulate social relations and extract resources; how states are formed or collapse; relationships between the state and social movements; the adequacy of the concept of the state; and the growth or decline of civil society in relation to the state. The state as it relates to society in the context of regime type, modernity, development, questions of identity (ethnic, racial, gender, etc.) and other such themes are also of concern.

- b. Regions: Africa, East Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

### C. Graduate Courses Offered:

#### 1. Political Science

PS 804	Interdisciplinary Western European Area Studies Seminar
PS 814	Social Identities: Definition and Measurement
PS 836	Formal Models of Domestic Politics
PS 840	Comparative Political Economy
PS 841	Seminar in International Business and Government
PS 853	Comparative Political Institutions
PS 854	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
PS 855	Politics and Culture in Comparative Perspective
PS 856	Field Seminar in Comparative Politics
PS 860	Authoritarianism and Its Aftermath
PS 861	Challenges of Democratization
PS 862	State and Society in Comparative Perspective
PS 836	Formal Models of Domestic Politics
PS 948	Seminar: Topics in Comparative Politics
PS 949	Seminar: Post-Communist Politics
PS 961	Seminar: African Politics
PS 962	Seminar: Latin-American Politics
PS 967	Seminar: Asian Politics
PS 982	Interdepartmental Seminar: Latin America Area
PS 983	Interdepartmental Seminar: African Studies
PS 987	Comparative Politics Colloquium

2. Methods courses from outside the department: In addition, because the scope, objects, and methods of comparative politics are so broad, students may find it useful to

consider some of the following courses as possible supplements to the department's courses in fulfilling their methodology requirements.

Anthropology 909	Research Methods and Research Design in Cultural Anthropology
History 774	Methods for Historical Research in Non-Literate Societies
History 795	Quantitative Methods for Historical Research
History 875	Applications of Quantitative Methods to Historical Research.
Sociology 357*	Methods of Sociological Inquiry
Sociology 358*	Design and Analysis of Social Research
Sociology 359*	Statistical Analysis of Social Research
Sociology 360*	Statistics for Sociologists I
Sociology 361	Statistics for Sociologists II
Sociology 365*	Computing in Sociological Research
Sociology 375*	Introduction to Mathematical Sociology
Sociology 544*	Introduction to Survey Research
Sociology 545*	Ethnomethodology
Sociology 674	Elementary Demographic Techniques
Sociology 676*	Applied Demography: American Demographics
Sociology 693*	Practicum in Analysis and Research
Sociology 750	Research Methods in Sociology
Sociology 751	Survey Methods for Social Research
Sociology 752	Measurement and Questionnaires for Survey Research
Sociology 753	Comparative and Historical Methods in Sociology
Sociology 754	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology
Sociology 755	Methods of Qualitative Research
Sociology 759	Mathematical Sociology
Sociology 964	Seminar--Design and Process of Survey Research
Sociology 974	Seminar--Demographic Methodology
Gender and Women's Studies 900	Approaches to Research in Women's Studies

\* Does not count towards graduate credits

### III. International Relations

- A. The field of international relations has a long history. In fact, it was for many decades a separate discipline that even antedated political science at some colleges and universities. By the second half of the twentieth century, however, international relations had evolved away from its preoccupations with diplomatic history and international law and was rapidly adopting the disciplinary foci that were simultaneously changing political science, foci on processes and policies undertaken in a more or less formally institutional context. The two fields merged. Today, international relations is routinely understood to be a subfield of political science.

International relations attempts to explain the interactions of states in the global interstate system, and it also attempts to explain the interactions of others whose behavior originates within one country and is targeted toward members of other countries. In short, the study of international relations is an attempt to explain behavior that occurs across the boundaries of states, the broader relationships of which such behavior is a part, and the institutions (private, state, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental) that oversee those interactions. Explanations of that behavior may be sought at any level of human aggregation. Some look to psychological and social-psychological understandings of why foreign policymakers act as they do. Others investigate institutional processes and politics as factors contributing to the externally directed goals and behavior of states.

Alternatively, explanations may be found in the relationships between and among the participants (for example, balance of power), in the intergovernmental arrangements among states (for example, collective security), in the activities of multinational corporations (for example, the distribution of wealth), or in the distribution of power and control in the world as a single system.

- B. To improve our understanding of international relations we need both to develop and refine theories of international politics and to carefully evaluate those theories against the data presented by the international system. Elegant theories created without much understanding of the realities of international affairs will fail to shed much light on them. Similarly, diligent data collection without a clear theoretical framework to guide decisions about what to measure, why, and how will not help us understand the causal mechanisms behind key events in international relations. Therefore, we expect students to develop a grounding in both the theories we use to explain international relations and one and more specific substantive/issue areas that they are interested in understanding better. Political Science 857 will provide students with a first exposure to the theoretical side and an overview of major bodies of empirical research on key topics in IR. This can be supplemented by further specialized coursework on various dimensions of IR theory, as well as courses in different dimension of theory in the other political science subfields. On the empirical side, the department offers several courses related to the subfields listed in Chapter Two.

1. *Theories of International Relations*

- PS 837 Formal Models of International Relations
- PS 857 International Relations Theories
- PS 940 Domestic Politics of International Relations
- PS 960 Seminar International Relations - Psychology and World Politics

2. *International Security*

- PS 854 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
- PS 945 Seminar-National Security Affairs
- PS 960 Seminar International Relations – Laws of War

3. *International Political Economy*

- PS 864 International Political Economy

4. *Global Social Issues*

- PS 814 Social Identities: Definition and Measurement
- PS 866 Global Environmental Governance

5. *International Institutions*

- PS 931 International Law and Politics Post World War II
- PS 959 Seminar-International Organization

6. *Other courses include*

- PS 960 Seminar International Relations – Various topics
- PS 988 International Relations Workshop

#### IV. Political Methodology

A. The Political Methodology field at Wisconsin is broadly defined. It includes training in qualitative and quantitative design, data collection, statistical methods, and formal theory. As a consequence, Wisconsin students are unusually well trained in the entire field and are prepared to both teach and apply methodologies in all empirical fields of the discipline. The study of, and testing in, methods is not isolated from work in substantive fields, and the exam requires students to be able to apply the methodological questions (theory and technique) to the student's substantive area in an intelligent way.

B. Courses.

Most of the relevant course work should normally be expected to be within the Political Science Department. However, a limited number of courses in other departments may be appropriate, especially when these extend a student's range beyond that offered within the department. For example, an advanced statistics course in Economics or a course in qualitative methods in Anthropology could be used to advantage by students wishing to concentrate in either of these subfields. In general however, students are cautioned that this is a subfield of political science, and wholesale substitution of courses outside the department will seldom be appropriate and should be done only after consultation with the field chair.

In addition to the course work taken, students should understand that mastery of this (or any other) field requires more than merely taking classes. Directed readings courses with faculty in the field also may be helpful in filling gaps in our usual course offerings.

C. Methods subfields: Applications are central to sophisticated methodology, so an ability to relate the various methodological issues of design and analysis to published work in substantive fields should be a deliberate part of your preparation for the methodology examination.

1. *Research Design and Data Collection.* This subfield concentrates on how social scientists make inferences from observation through the design, conduct, and

interpretation of empirical analyses. Methods of observation and data collection are central considerations. Topics include concept formation, measurement, research design, historical, observational, experimental, and survey data collection.

Relevant Courses: PS 817, PS 919. See also related courses in Anthropology, Educational Psychology, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

2. *Statistical Methods and Computation*. This subfield includes statistical models such as regression, maximum likelihood, Bayesian models, time series and dimensional analysis. Statistical models allow estimation and inference from a coherent theoretical base (classical or Bayesian). Students should master both basic and advanced elements within this subfield, with at least one course beyond multiple regression and preferably two such courses.

Relevant Courses: PS 812, PS 813, PS 553, PS 818, PS 917, PS 919. See also related courses in Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Statistics if this will be an area of particular emphasis.

3. *Formal Theory*. This subfield includes game theory, social choice, and considers the behavior of rational actors in political settings of all kinds. Students doing work in this subfield should include technical classes such as PS 835 (Game Theory and Political Analysis) and PS 836 (Formal Models in Political Science) and the application of these methods to substantive problems such as those covered in 840 (Political Economy) and others.

Relevant Courses: PS 835, PS 836, PS 837, PS 840. See also related courses in Economics and other fields.

## V. Political Theory

A. Political Theory at Wisconsin is a wide-ranging activity that covers all aspects of the history, philosophy, and application of political ideas. It includes both historical and thematic approaches to political theory. While we hope you will explore broadly and become familiar with the many fascinating dimensions of this field, on the preliminary examinations we will ask you to answer questions on only three of the subfields.

B. Subfields: The following very brief descriptions of the subfields are intended for information only. They do not define what will be expected on the Second Field preliminary examinations. The specific emphasis within the subfields will vary from year to year, depending on the courses offered and new developments within the fields. Please consult with participating faculty for reading lists and other information well before the examination. Students are also required to take PS 839: Methods of Political Theory.

1. *Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy*. The study of the great Western tradition of political theory begins with the earliest written texts of the Western canon and runs

through Machiavelli. You will read the classic works of Greek, Roman, early Christian, and Medieval, political theory, along with major interpretations of these works and important studies of the history of ideas in that period. The study of non-Western ancient and medieval thought may also be offered.

Relevant courses: PS 833: Topics in Ancient Political Thought, and, depending on the topic, PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory or PS 931: Political Theory Seminar.

2. *Early Modern Political Philosophy.* We study the continuing history of political ideas from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. We take up the emergence and development of scientism, humanism, the Reformation, liberal and conservative thought, the age of discovery, and other intellectual currents of the fifteenth sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. You will become familiar with the great works, the major interpretations and historical studies of the thought of this period and consider how this heritage shapes and informs the major currents and arguments of modern and contemporary political thought.

Relevant courses: Depending on the topic, PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory or PS 931: Political Theory Seminar.

3. *Modern Political Philosophy.* Modern political philosophy ranges from the Enlightenment to WWI. In this subfield we take up the emergence and development of liberal and democratic theory, conservative thought, Marxism and related theories, idealism, romanticism, pragmatism, imperialism, nationalism, and other intellectual currents of the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, both in the West generally and in America.

Relevant courses: Depending on the topic, PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory or PS 931: Political Theory Seminar.

4. *Contemporary Political Theory.* Contemporary political theory begins in the aftermath of WWI and continues to the present. It encompasses the central issues and debates that animate the discipline of political theory today, including democratic theory, liberalism and its critics, neo-republicanism, feminism, psychoanalytical theory, nationalism, conservative theory, post-colonialism, multi-culturalism, and other current schools of thought.

Relevant courses: PS 933: Feminist Political Theory, the topics courses of PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory or PS 931: Political Theory Seminar when the topics focus on Democratic Theory, Sex and Sexualities, Critical Theory in International Politics.

5. *Continental Political Theory.* Continental political theory is the tradition of Kantian and post-Kantian philosophy and its reception in France and elsewhere. This includes schools such as Idealism, Romanticism, Historical Materialism, existentialism, Critical Theory, hermeneutics, phenomenology, poststructuralism, deconstruction and

postmodernism. Major figures include Kant, Hegel, Goethe, Schiller, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Marx, Husserl, Horkheimer, Adorno, Sartre, Heidegger, Weber, Arendt, Kojève, Voegelin, Strauss, Foucault, Derrida, Bataille, Marcuse, Habermas, and so on.

Relevant courses: Depending on the topic, PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory and PS 931: Political Theory Seminar.

6. *Law and Legal Theory*. This field includes the study of the philosophy of law, constitutionalism, jurisprudence, theories of legal interpretation, and the history of law. Subjects of study may include such major schools as legal realism, positivism, international law, feminist legal theory, critical legal studies, law and society, narrative and rhetorical legal studies, and economic, pragmatic, and liberal approaches to legal interpretation.

Relevant courses: PS 830: Constitutional Theory, the topics courses of PS 831: Concepts in Political Theory or PS 931: Political Theory Seminar when the topics focus on Political Theories of Law; Law and Politics Post WWII; Arendt, Jaspers, and Schmitt; Laws of War.