



Department of Political Science

Guide for Graduate Students

2023-2024

Reference this handbook to learn about the unique policies, requirements, procedures, resources, and norms for graduate students in the Political Science Ph.D. Program.

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Navigating Policy and Resources at UW-Madison

This handbook is one of many sources to consult as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms of graduate education at UW-Madison:



Department Graduate Guide Overview

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: Program Structure and Requirements

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. Meet with your advisor at the start of each semester.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Take and pass the dissertation proposal workshop course Political Science 801.
- i. Submit a solo-authored conference-level research paper for review by December 15th of the 5th semester.
- j. Complete the Graduate School Minor requirement (9 credits) and meet the minimum graduate credit requirement (51 credits).
- k. Fulfill any requirements specified by the student's primary subfield, such as presenting at a workshop.
- l. Maintain minimum of B average in coursework.
- m. Remove all incompletes before defending the dissertation proposal.
- n. Produce an approved dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester.
- o. Write, defend and deposit a thesis of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge.

II. Getting Advice

A. Graduate Program Coordinator

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, and forms, you should always check with the Graduate Program Coordinator even if you have received advice from other individuals.

B. Director of Graduate Studies

During your first week in the Department, you will have an appointment with the Associate Chair, who is also the Director of Graduate Studies in 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.

C. Faculty Advisor

Your advisor will be your first source of advice on questions concerning your work here. You should meet with this person at least once a 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 your questions to other faculty members. It is never too early to be thinking about the composition of your committee.

D. First Year Assessment

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. Semester Meetings with Your Advisor

Each semester students are required to meet with their advisor to review past successes and discuss future goals.

F. Teaching Assistant Evaluations

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 Studies, 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. Overall Considerations

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, materials, 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 in mind.

B. Methods

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 812 (Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science), PS 817 (Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry), and PS 801 (Dissertation Proposal Workshop). The desirability of obtaining 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. Workshops

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. Incompletes

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 Grad 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. PS 999: Independent Work

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. Additional Considerations

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 just be 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 list 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. Selecting a Dissertation Topic

From your very first semester, you should be thinking about what interests you most.

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. 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.

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.

B. Moving Towards the Dissertation Proposal

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.

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.

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.

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.

C. Dissertation Proposal

You are expected to defend a dissertation proposal before the 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.

D. Meeting with Your Advisor

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.

E. Coauthored Chapters and Contributions

A doctoral dissertation must primarily be a dissertator's own work. If it is the result of research enterprises in which others have collaborated, a substantial portion (as determined by the dissertation committee) must represent the dissertator's own contribution and the other research participants must be identified. Students are strongly urged to verify that their planned dissertation, if it is to include coauthored chapters, meets the standard that a substantial portion represent their own contribution and to keep a record of the committee's approval.

Dissertators must acknowledge contributions to the dissertation by other individuals, including contributions to designing and executing the research, analyzing and interpreting the data and results, and writing or co-authorship of any (published or unpublished) part of the dissertation.

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. Normal Progress Requirements

What is required to make normal progress? In general, to make normal progress through the program:

1. First Year Assessment

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. Appropriate Course Load and GPA

Take an appropriate course load and achieve satisfactory average grades (B or better). If you have not achieved dissertator status and are not a TA or PA, the expectation is that you take a minimum of three courses (9 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 courses as possible at the 800 level and above.

3. Preliminary Exams

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. Presentation of Dissertation Ideas

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. Solo-Authored Conference Paper

Submit a solo-authored conference-level paper on a topic in your first field to the Associate Chair for review by December 15th of the 5th semester.

6. Dissertation Proposal

Submit an acceptable dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester.

7. Completion of Dissertation

Complete the dissertation in a reasonable time after passing the prelims and the proposal defense.

B. Deviations from Normal Progress

Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged by the department recognizes that there are some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Specific provisions for granting extensions for completion of the prelims as 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. Extensions

Taking account of any extensions, as discussed in the previous point, students who fail to pass the requirements by September 15th 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 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. Minimum Credits

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 level 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. Minor Requirement

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 three ways:

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 812 or PS 817) toward a Minor.

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

3. Option C “Graduate/Professional Certificate”

Requires successful completion of a Graduate/Professional certificate in a program outside of the student’s doctoral major program.

Coursework must be graded courses numbered 300 or above for which graduate credit is available; coursework may not be double counted for major requirements; research and thesis courses (e.g., 790, 890, 990) cannot be used to satisfy the minor or Graduate/Professional certificate requirements; no more than 3 credits of independent study may be used (e.g. 999); no more than 5 credits of coursework completed more than 5 years prior to admission to the doctoral program may be used; coursework taken 10 years ago or more may not be used to fulfill this requirement. MAs completed less than 5 years before admission to the doctoral program can be used to fulfill this requirement.

VII. Financial Support

A. Overview of Financial Guarantee

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 Positions are Allocated

How are PA, LSA, and TA 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 considered 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

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. Expertise or Prior Teaching Experience

Students are given priority for courses in which they have expertise or prior teaching experience.

4. Instructional Needs

This includes the balancing of junior and senior TAs in a course.

5. Meeting Departmental Deadlines

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 obligations to find financial support for the student.

6. Outside Support

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. Concurrent Appointments

Except in exceptional circumstances, teaching-assistant, project-assistant, and lecturer (LSA) appointments will not be provided to students with fellowship funding.

D. Probation

Every student is on probation their first appointment as a teaching assistant or project assistant in the Political Science Department. Probation may be extended to a second semester.

E. Faculty Mentor

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. 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. Timing

Your advisor and the Associate Chair will help you decide when you are ready to go on the job market. The season usually begins in August with online job listings at the American Political Science Association website (www.apsanet.org). However, some listings are posted even earlier. It is your job to check the site frequently to read new listings and identify jobs that interest you.

B. Type of Institution

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. Progress on Dissertation

In general, you should not consider going on the job market 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. Letters of Recommendation

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 materials so that they can write strong letters.

E. Placement Meeting

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 is committed to a professional and welcoming workplace environment for students of every background. Our commitment to building shared community, to academic integrity, and to professionalism towards one another in academic and non-academic settings extends to non-instructional settings and to both on- and off- campus activities (such as research activities, data management, conferences, preliminary exams, interpersonal interactions, use of social media, etc.). the Department will apply the university standards and definitions of academic misconduct, nonacademic misconduct, and hostile and intimidating behavior.

Details on these standards and definitions are available here:

a. UW-Madison Graduate School definition of nonacademic misconduct:

<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/misconduct-nonacademic/>

b. UW-Madison Graduate School definition of academic misconduct:

<https://grad.wisc.edu/document/misconduct-academic/>

c. UW-Madison definition of hostile and intimidating behavior:

<https://hr.wisc.edu.hib/principles-and-policies/>

d. UW-Madison Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence:
<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>

The department faculty reminds students that they need to let all relevant 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 similar paper for more than one course. These plans must be cleared with all relevant faculty well ahead of time before submitting the paper. The faculty considers the submission of “recycled” papers without prior faculty approval to be a breach of the standards for academic conduct.

Graduate students, faculty, or staff aware of academic or non-academic misconduct, or of hostile and intimidating behavior may bring this issue to the Department Chair, Associate Chair, or staff member’s supervisor as well as to the appropriate university offices.

A. Procedures regarding students accused of misconduct

In some cases, the Associate Chair may attempt to resolve the problem informally. If this cannot be done to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant may submit the grievance to the Associate Chair in writing.

When the Associate Chair is informed in writing of an allegation of academic or nonacademic misconduct committed by a political science graduate student, the Associate Chair will assess whether the alleged violation of conduct will be addressed within the department and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct, other appropriate university office, and/or law enforcement. For allegations of misconduct addressed within the department, the Associate Chair will provide an opportunity to students accused of misconduct to submit any relevant information in writing prior to formal action being taken. The Associate Chair, in consultation with other faculty and relevant university officials when appropriate, and after meeting with the accused student and other relevant parties, will then decide on disciplinary sanction (if any). Department-level sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a written reprimand placed in the student’s department file, a withdrawal of the funding guarantee, or a recommendation for removal from the program.

Students may appeal the Associate Chair’s decision to the Political Science Department’s Graduate Appeals committee within 14 days. Students should also be aware of the graduate school’s policy for addressing grievances or concerns about the process: <https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>.

Where a matter is dealt with at the department level, complainants retain the right to lodge a complaint with relevant university or other offices separate from any departmental proceeding. In cases of academic misconduct, faculty have the right to go directly to university authorities.

Chapter Two: M.A. and Ph.D. Requirements

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 Master 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. Achieving Dissertator Status

To achieve dissertator status and become ABD ("all but the dissertation") status, a student must:

1. Meet with their advisor each semester to discuss progress and future plans.
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), Research and Writing Seminar

(aka Prospectus workshop) (PS 801), and three credits of statistical methods instruction

4. Submit a solo-authored conference-level research paper for review by December 15 of the 5th 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. Ph.D. Requirements

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. Detailed 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 in 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.

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 taken.

ii. Both the First Field and Second Field written exams for each subfield will be distributed simultaneously.

b. With the exception of retakes, discussed below, only one sitting will be provided in any year.

c. Exams will be scheduled such that no student's First and Second Field exams will overlap with one another.

d. 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.

i. 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.

ii. 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.

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 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 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.

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 consists of a 4-hour written, in-person exam, followed by an oral exam. The Second Field exam in Methods consists of only the 4-hour written exam.

i. The written Methods exams are open-book, open-notes, and restricted to offline sources only.

ii. Part 1 of the written exam questions will be drawn from materials and concepts covered in PS 812 (Introduction to Statistical Methods), PS 813 (Multivariable Statistical Inference), PS 818 (Maximum Likelihood Estimation), PS 835 (Game Theory) courses. All questions in Part 1 must be answered.

iii. Students who completed PS 812, PS 813, PS 818, PS 835 with a grade of A in all four courses may apply for exemption from Part 1 of the written exam.

iv. Part 2 of the written exam will be drawn from materials and concepts covered in elective courses, with one question drawn from each elective course a student has taken. First Field Methods students must answer 3 questions. Second Field Methods students answer 2 questions. Students taking more than the required number of electives will be offered more questions than they are required to answer.

v. In Part 2, students may be exempt from answering questions based on elective courses if a student received a grade of A and there were exam assessments.

1. Examples: A student taking methods as a Second Field who received a grade of A in PS 917, assuming it included an exam assessment, but received a grade of AB in PS 836 would be required to answer only one question, to be drawn from PS 836. A student taking methods as a Second Field who received grades of A in at least two electives with exam

assessments would be entirely exempt from Part 2 of the written exam.

vi. Students who wish to take methods as a First or Second field must submit to the Field Chair prior to February 1 before the summer exam period (a) a list of courses for which their Part 2 exam questions may be drawn and (b) requests for exemptions, if any. As exempted questions for Part 2 may only be for elective courses for which there are exam assessments.

vii. Students must present syllabi or other evidence of such assessments and have received an A in the course to receive an exemption from a question. Students must receive formal approval from the Field Chair of any written exemptions by March 1 prior to the written exam date. For any courses that are in progress at the time of February 1 and for which no grade is available, students may still petition for exemption which shall be conditionally granted upon receiving an A in the course.

viii. When students are exempted from questions related to elective courses, their exams shall be graded as if they had given answers to questions related to those elective courses that would be expected of students receiving a grade of A. Thus, a student exempted from a question drawn from PS 836 but not from PS 917 would only answer one question, which would relate to PS 917, in Part II but would be graded as if the exam also contained an answer to a second question, drawn from PS 836, and was answered at the level expected of a student receiving a grade of A.

ix. The First Field oral exam will be scheduled for 1.5 hours, with an examining committee comprised of two faculty. The First Field oral exam cannot be exempted. The exam will cover all materials examined in the written exam in Part 1 and the elective Methods courses that a student completed.

e. The First Field exam for Political Theory requires the student to present, defend, and revise a research paper. The specific policies are described below. Students taking the Second Field exam must answer three questions from three separate subfields. Answers for the exam are limited to 6,000 words for all questions.

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, the results of which will be made known by June 21st, or the first business day thereafter.

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. Changes to Prelim Exam Policies

Any field committee that wishes to change its exam policies from those set out in Chapter 2 will present 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 801: Dissertation Workshop before or during the 5th semester.

D. Research Paper Requirements

A solo-authored conference-level research paper written on topic in the student's first field must be submitted to the Associate Chair by December 15th of the 5th semester.

Each field chair will select a committee of two faculty from within the field that will review the papers submitted in that field. The reviewers will assess the paper as a Pass or Revise and Resubmit and provide comments to the student by the Spring Semester Instruction Begins date set by the Academic Calendar for the 6th semester. If the two reviewers disagree in their assessment of Revise and Resubmit, the student has until the last day of classes for the 6th semester to submit a satisfactory paper, along with a memo outlining how they responded to the comments. The prior review committee will assess the revised paper and the response memo as Pass or as another Revise and Resubmit by the last day of finals. If the two reviewers disagree in their assessment, the Field Chair will cast the deciding vote. If a second revision is necessary, students have until June 30th to submit a revision. Faculty will evaluate this revision by July 15. A student will have no more than two opportunities to revise and resubmit their paper. Failure to submit a satisfactory paper after two revisions is cause for removal from the program. Students may submit papers used to fulfill another requirement for the purpose of meeting the research paper requirement.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Associate Chair, a student who fails to meet the requirement by July 15th following their sixth semester will have a Hold placed on their records, blocking enrollment for the eighth semester.

E. Dissertation Proposal Defense

1. Overview

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. Committee

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. Scheduling & Circulation of Drafts

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. Extensions

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 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. Details of the Defense

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 students 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 email 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. Approval

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.

7. Copy to the Program Coordinator

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.

8. Incompletes

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.

9. Deadline

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. Five-Year Rule

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. Contributions

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. Procedures

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. Committee

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 or 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. Additional Requirements

a. 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.

b. Copies of the dissertation shall be made available to members of the committee no later than two weeks before the oral defense.

c. 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.

- d. 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, 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 and include statistical analysis, experiments, in-depth interviewing and ethnography, and archival research.

1. Subfields

The American politics field consists of the following subfields:

- a. National Institutions
 - i. Presidency
 - ii. Congress
 - iii. Supreme Court
 - iv. Bureaucracy
- b. Federalism and Subnational Politics
 - i. Federal system
 - ii. State politics
 - iii. Local politics
- c. Political Behavior
 - i. Elite behavior
 - ii. Political and civic participation
 - iii. Public opinion
 - iv. Elections
- d. Policy, Political Economy, and Public Administration
- e. Extragovernmental Organizations
 - i. Parties
 - ii. Interest groups
 - iii. Social movements
- f. Constitutional Law and Administrative Law

2. Requirements

- a. Required Courses
 - i. 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.

ii. 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. Committee

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. Grading

A High Pass signifies that the essays accurately describe key works in American Politics and demonstrates 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.

c. Exam Questions

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 declare subfields prior to the exam.

Second Field: Students will answer two questions of six questions. The questions will be drawn from across American Politics with emphasis 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 proficient 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
 - i. First field: students declaring Comparative Politics as their First Field are required to take a minimum of three graded graduate courses in Comparative Politics.

 - ii. Second field: Students declaring Comparative Politics as their Second Field are required to take a minimum of two graded graduate courses in Comparative Politics.

iii. One of the classes required for all students doing Comparative as either their First or Second Field must be PS 856, the Comparative Field Seminar, which counts toward the number of classes listed as required under i. and ii. This seminar introduces students to the primary works in the field. The syllabus for PS 856, 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. Regions

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. Committee and Grading

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 essay fails 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.

c. Exam Questions

i. 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.

ii. 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

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

C. International Relations

1. Subfields

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. Committees

The IR field chair will announce the composition of the exam committees no later than May 1st.

b. First Field

i. The oral exam will be 1.5 hours with a committee of three faculty members.

ii. The exam will cover literature and a student's written work from major written assignments completed in their international relations courses. Literature will include international relations theory as well as work listed on syllabi for all international relations courses a student has taken.

iii. 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

i. The oral exam will be one hour with a committee of two faculty members.

ii. The exam will cover literature and a student's written work from major written assignments completed in their international relations courses. Literature will include international relations theory as well as work listed on syllabi for all international relations courses a student has taken.

iii. At least one week prior to the date of the oral exam, 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. Requirements

a. Coursework

All students choosing Methods as either a First or Second Field must complete the following courses: PS 812, PS 813, PS 818, and PS 835. At the discretion of the methods field chair, a different course inside or outside the department may be substituted.

b. First Field

Students choosing Methods as a First Field must complete three elective courses in political methodology in addition to the required courses.

c. Second Field

Students choosing Methods as a Second Field must complete two elective courses in political methodology in addition to the required courses.

d. The possible elective courses for the Methods Field are Formal Models of Domestic Politics (PS836), Formal Models of International Relations (PS837), Time Series (PS 917), Bayesian Statistics (PS 919), Machine Learning (PS 919), Qualitative Methods (PS 919), Experiments (PS 919). Courses outside this list may only be counted as electives with the prior approval of the field chair. Such approval may be granted when, in the view of the field chair, the course material falls clearly within Political Methodology and is taught at or above the level of rigor typical of graduate methods courses in the department. PS 811 (statistical computing), PS 817 (empirical methods of political inquiry), and the Models, Experiments and Data workshop cannot be counted as elective courses.

e. Students choosing Methods as a First Field are required to present a paper at the Models Experiments and Data workshop at some point in their third year or before their dissertation prospectus defense.

f. Students choosing Methods as a Second Field are required to serve at least once by the end of their third year or before their dissertation prospectus defense as either a discussant or presenter at the Models, Experiments and Data workshop.

2. Preliminary Exams

a. Written Exam

All students testing in First and Second Field Methods will sit for a written exam composed of two parts as detailed in Section III. A committee consisting of three faculty who have taught any of the courses from which exam questions are to be drawn will be responsible for writing the written exam questions and soliciting relevant faculty guidance on specialty questions.

b. Oral Exam

In addition, students testing in First Field Methods will sit for a 1.5-hour oral exam with a committee of two faculty members who have taught any of the courses from which exam questions are to be drawn.

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. Subfields

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. First Field

Students specializing in Political Theory as a First Field are required to take PS 839: Field Seminar in 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 Thought OR one course in Early Modern Political Thought
- ii. One course in Modern Political Thought OR one course in Contemporary Political Thought

iii. One course in Continental Political Thought, Law and Legal Theory, OR an additional political theory seminar approved by the field chair

b. Second Field

Students pursuing Political Theory as a Second Field are required to take PS 839: Field Seminar in Political Theory. In addition, students are required to take at least one course or its equivalent in both modern or contemporary political philosophy, and one course in ancient and medieval political thought.

c. Internal Minor

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 will complete a paper-based preliminary exam. The student will work with their advisor to identify a paper no later than one month before the presentation deadline. The advisor will notify the Political Theory Field Chair when the paper has been identified. The 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 Prelim Review Committee of three theory faculty prior to the workshop. The Field Chair will appoint a Prelim Review Committee of three theory faculty prior to the scheduled presentation of the paper. The Field Chair will also appoint a chair for the committee. The student's advisor may not server as committee chair.

The students will be required to present the paper at the Political Theory Workshop prior to March 31 of the fourth semester. With regard to minimal faculty attendance, all three members of the Prelim Review Committee are to be present.

The chair of the Prelim Review Committee will provide the student with a summary written document detailing participants' comments. After presenting the paper, the student will write a memo outlining proposed revisions based on feedback received at the Political Theory Workshop presentation. This memo is to be submitted no later than one week after the presentation and is to be approved within one week by the Prelim

Review Committee. 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. The revised memo is to be re-submitted within one week. In exceptional circumstances, the Field chair will work with students in need of additional time.

The student will be required to submit a paper revised according to the plans outlined in the memo to the members of the Prelim Review Committee by June 5th, or the first business day thereafter. The committee will complete its evaluation of the revised paper no later than two weeks after it is submitted and assign one of four grades: Distinction, High Pass, Pass, or Deficient.

If the grade assigned by the committee is Deficient, the Chair of the Prelim Review Committee will provide the student with written feedback on the paper at that time. The student will then be required to prepare a revision memo based on the written feedback. This memo is to be submitted no later than one week after the assignment of the Deficient grade and is to be approved within one week by the Prelim Review Committee. 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. The student will submit a re-revised paper no later than August 31st.

The Prelim Review Committee will decide on a grade (Distinction, High Pass, Pass, or Deficient) no later than two weeks after receipt of the re-revised paper. If the re-revised paper receives a second grade of Deficient the student will not be permitted to continue in the program, subject to appeal as provided in Departmental policies and procedures.

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 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 student 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 the Political Science Department simultaneously, although concurrent admissions 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. Faculty Advisors

Each student must have a faculty advisor in the Law School and the Political Science Department. A single member of the faculty who has dual tenure or tenure-track appointment in the Law School and the Political Science Department may serve both functions. If the student has separate advisors, the advisors shall coordinate their advice.

2. Student Status

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. Coordination between Law School and Department

The Law School and the Political Science Department will work together to develop a method of identifying dual-degree candidates, coordinating information about admissions to the program, 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. Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall take responsibility for seeing that the student's program is well integrated and pedagogically sound.

5. Grading

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

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

1. 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

1. 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 the 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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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. Additional Rules

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.

Chapter Three: Subfields

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. Overview

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 extra governmental institutions, their interrelationships, their historical evolution, and their role in the policy process. Specifically, the field covers the major national government institutions; subnational governments and the federal system; extra governmental 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. Courses

Graduate level courses of interest to American Politics students that have been offered in recent years include:

1. American Political Parties
2. Classics in American Politics
3. Formal Models of Domestic Politics
4. Major Themes in American Politics
5. Mass Political Behavior
6. New Approaches to American Politics
7. Political Behavior and Economic Inequality
8. Political Communication
9. Political Participation
10. Political Psychology
11. Public Opinion
12. Race and Politics in the United States

13. Separation of Powers
14. Social Identities: Definition and Measurement
15. The American Judiciary
16. The Contemporary Presidency: Issues and Approaches
17. The Legislative Process
18. The Supreme Court as a Political Institution

C. Subfields

1. Subfields are listed in Chapter Two.

II. Comparative Politics

A. Overview

1. Scholars of Comparative Politics investigate similarities and differences in patterns of politics across the world. They engage in within-country, cross-national, and cross-regional research with a geographic focus outside the United States (although the US may be included as a case in cross-national comparative research). Comparativists use a variety of methods and often possess deep expertise in particular countries or regions. This knowledge is important for the purpose of systematic comparison, theory building, theory testing, and awareness of context specific variables and causal relationships masked by immersion in our own politics and societies.

2. The field of Comparative Politics includes, among others, the study of institutions, state and society, identities and culture, political economy, political behavior, contentious politics and political violence, politics and gender, regime types and transitions, law and comparative politics, and comparative public policy.

3. What distinguishes Comparative Politics from other fields of political science? Comparative Politics concentrates on 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 for comparativists. Like American Politics, Comparative Politics thus focuses on politics within countries. Unlike American Politics, however, Comparative Politics is global in scope. While the US may be one case among others in cross-national comparative research, the main focus of the field is on countries and regions in other parts of the world.

4. In studying those cases, scholars of Comparative Politics navigate the tension between specialized area knowledge and more general theory in different and

productive ways. Comparativists usually share a serious commitment to the importance of relevant language training and extended field research as major methodological tools. At times, this also includes supplementary training in cognate disciplines such as economics, history, anthropology, and sociology, to deepen their understanding of the places, substantive topics, and theoretical questions they study. Ultimately, this considerable area expertise is used to generate and evaluate theories that help explain more general political phenomena.

5. Scholarship in Comparative Politics is epistemologically and methodologically diverse. As a result, there is no one way to “do” comparative politics. Rather, scholars rely on a diverse set of approaches and methodological tools that include, but are not limited to, ethnography, interviews, archival and historical research, statistical modeling, experiments, and formal theory. In many cases, scholars find it useful to use more than one of these methods to arrive at convincing explanations for the phenomena they study.

6. Comparativists employ these methods to investigate the following overlapping themes (among others):

i. Institutions: This theme deals with the comparative study of (political, economic, and social) institutions – state and non-state, formal and informal – 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; legislative organization and behavior; political parties and party systems; electoral systems and elections; norms and conventions; interest groups; public bureaucracy; political group organization; courts and legal systems; civil-military relations; property rights institutions; and federalism.

ii. State and Society: This theme is broadly concerned with the relationship between 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 and mutual engagement; as well as studies in which the state’s authority and legitimacy are contested by social actors. This theme looks at questions of state strength and autonomy; state capacity to regulate social relations and extract and mobilize resources; patronage and corruption; and how states are formed as well as how they weaken and collapse. The theme examines problems of citizenship, relationships between the state and social movements and

civil society, state-related conflict and revolution, and problems of peacebuilding and state building in the aftermath of conflict and revolution. The theme also includes the role of international actors as they interact with the state and society.

iii. Identities and Culture: National belonging, ethnicity, and other identities such as race, religion, class, and gender are important causes and effects of a variety of contemporary political phenomena. Regimes, groups, and individuals construct, maintain, and put these identities to work through a variety of political processes, including but not limited to state building, violence, protest, voting, and policymaking. One reason these identities hold such import is through their link to culture – the values, attitudes, belief systems, expectations, obligations, and largely unquestioned understandings of political life. Together, the study of identity and culture helps to explain how and why individuals and groups perceive the political world and understand their role in it.

iv. 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. Outcomes studied include economic growth (why are some countries rich while others are poor?), economic reform (liberalization, privatization), redistribution of economic resources (e.g., why do some countries redistribute more than others?), 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). Broadly understood, political economy examines the effects of politics on economics and vice versa.

v. Political Behavior: This theme seeks to explain variation in the political attitudes, decision-making, and behaviors of masses and elites across space and time. Topics covered include political participation, voting, protests, socialization, persuasion, and accountability.

vi. Contentious Politics and Political Violence: “Contentious politics” primarily signals the study of social movements and revolutions, both violent and nonviolent, that seek to influence states and/or non-state institutions (including social norms) through channels outside of regular state institutions and processes. Central questions focus on the dynamics

of movement emergence, growth, and decline, including attention to processes as varied as the role of resources (e.g., organizations or media) in shaping movements, to the importance of political contexts and structures (e.g., election cycles or regime type), to the ways in which social movement goals interact with everyday understandings and behaviors (e.g., the resonance of movement frames or the role of emotions). The study of “violence” incorporates analysis of civil war, ethnic conflict, riots, genocide, terrorism, and other forms of politically inspired physical harm. Analysis of violence can focus on state as well as non-state actors. Scholarship on both contentious politics and violence asks questions at the micro, meso, and macro-levels, and is interested in understanding everything from individual choices (e.g., why some people chose to join a social movement or take up armed resistance), to organizational emergence and development (e.g., how the structure of a resistance organization influences the growth of the movement), to the role of large, slow-moving macro processes (e.g. the role of demographic shifts in social movement development).

vii. Politics and Gender: The comparative study of politics and gender looks at the ways in which institutions, culture, social norms, and structural factors shape politics in gendered and intersectional ways. It looks, for example, at how legal, descriptive, substantive, and symbolic political representation is gendered across different regime types. The study of politics and gender looks at questions of citizenship and political inclusion. It examines constraints and opportunities of women politicians and political actors, and how they have reshaped political institutions and political behavior. It looks at the role of states and state feminism, parties, legislatures, international actors and organizations, and women’s movements in facilitating gender policy reform. Similarly, it examines the social forces that constrain such reforms. It also focuses on the role of voters and public opinion in gendering politics. This theme asks: What do changing understandings of gender itself tell us about politics?

viii. Regime Types and Transitions: The study of the nature and attributes of the political system – i.e., regime type – is crucial for understanding different political processes and their outcomes both spatially and temporally. Political regimes come in a variety of forms: closed authoritarianism, hegemonic authoritarianism, competitive authoritarianism, electoral democracy, and liberal democracy. This theme is also concerned with scrutinizing regime transitions that tend to be

inherently messy, non-linear and may occur in any direction: from authoritarian to democratic regimes, from one type of authoritarianism to another, and democracies can backslide to differing types of authoritarianism. Within a democratic regime, a transition can occur which makes the system far more democratic or democratic robustness can greatly ebb. Finally, this theme examines the myriad ways that may lead to political systems failure, secession, failed states and/or civil war. Beyond the study of transitions and regime types, important questions are also posed about the relationship of regime type to growth, equity, communalist relations, gender, stability, war, peace, etc.

ix. Law and Comparative Politics: This theme includes research on legal institutions, including courts, judges, police, and lawyers. It also includes research on the meaningfulness of law, inquiring into the relative presence of absence of the rule of law and/or judicial independence as well as into the circumstances under which citizens are willing to mobilize the law. Finally, it includes research into the substance of particular areas of law and how the law has been interpreted. With respect to all topics that fall under this theme, research encompasses both the formal rules and how these rules are used (or not used) by state and society. The nature of the underlying polity (democratic vs. authoritarian) colors the framing of the research questions and the contours of possible research. Research may focus on one country or may compare how different countries construct and manage the similar institutions and/or laws. It contemplates a wide variety of methodological approaches, including textual analysis of statutory law and/or judicial opinions, analysis of judicial opinions scraped from court websites using tools of computational linguistics, surveys of litigants and court insiders, focus groups, and participant-observation in courts or other legal institutions.

x. Comparative Public Policy: Comparative public policy investigates how political institutions and behaviors of key players motivate, influence, and sometimes distort such government policies as environmental protection, public investment, redistribution, public health, economic development, and others. Unlike economics and policy studies that focus more on the program evaluation of public policies, comparative public policy aims at understanding the political institutions and processes that underpin and produce certain policy outcomes.

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

B. Courses

Graduate level courses of interest to Comparative Politics students that have been offered in recent years include:

1. African Politics
2. Comparative Law
3. Comparative Political Economy
4. Comparative Politics Field Seminar
5. Comparative Political Parties
6. Comparative Political Institutions
7. Contentious Politics
8. Democratic Imperfections
9. Formal Models of Domestic Politics
10. Gender and Politics
11. Legacies of Political Violence
12. Nationalism & Ethnic Conflict
13. Political Economy of Development
14. Politics and Culture in Comparative Perspective
15. Political Ethnography
16. Political Inequality
17. Political Violence
18. Post-Communist Politics
19. Racial and Ethnic Divisions: Causes & Effects
20. Religion and Politics
21. Social Identities: Definition & Measurement
22. State and Society in Comparative Perspective

III. International Relations

A. Overview

International relations focuses on the interactions of states in the global interstate System. It also attempts to explain the interactions of other actors whose behavior originates within one country and is targeted toward actors in 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 found at any level of aggregation, from the cognitive processes of individuals to a “billiard-ball” approach that focuses on patterns of behavior across states. Some look to psychological and social-psychological theories to understand why elites and the public think or act in a particular manner. Others investigate domestic 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 or 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.

To improve our understanding of international relations we need both to develop and refine theories of international politics and to carefully design research to evaluate those theories. Political Science 857 (International Relations Theories) 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. Other courses focus on different methods, theoretical lenses and levels of analysis in the study of IR, including international security, international political economy, global social issues and international institutions.

B. Courses

Graduate level courses of interest to International Relations students that have been offered in recent years include:

1. Domestic Politics of International Relations
2. Formal Models of International Relations
3. Global Environmental Governance
4. Global Financial Governance
5. International Governance
6. International Law and Politics Post World War II
7. International Organizations
8. International Political Economy
9. International Relations of East Asia
10. International Relations Theories
11. Laws of War
12. National Security Affairs
13. Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
14. New Books and Approaches in International Relations
15. Psychological Approaches to World Politics
16. Social Identities: Definition and Measurement

IV. Political Methodology

A. Overview

The Political Methodology field at Wisconsin is broadly defined. It includes training in research design, formal theory, qualitative methods, statistical methods, computational methods, data collection, experiments, causal inference, survey design, and measurement. 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.

Most of the relevant coursework is normally taken 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. 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. Students are strongly encouraged to regularly attend and participate in the Models, Experiments and Data workshop. Directed readings courses with faculty in the field also may be helpful in filling gaps in our usual course offerings.

B. Subfields

Political methodology can be divided into several overlapping subfields:

1. **Formal Theory.** This subfield includes game theory and social choice theory and considers mathematical models of actors in political settings of all kinds. Students doing work in this subfield should include technical classes as well as the application of these methods to substantive problems.
2. **Statistical and Computational Methods.** This subfield includes statistical models such as regression, maximum likelihood, Bayesian models, time-series analysis, and machine learning. Statistical models allow estimation and inference from a coherent theoretical base (frequentist or Bayesian).
3. **Qualitative Methods.** This subfield concentrates on non-mathematical, human-focused approaches designed to build a complex, holistic understanding of a phenomenon. Topics include case studies, interviewing, archival research, ethnography, participant observation, counterfactuals, process tracing, and discourse analysis.

4. 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.

5. Causal Inference and Experimental Methods. This subfield concentrates on methods for inferring causal effects and other counterfactuals with minimal assumptions or model dependence, including through the use of experiments and quasi-experimental data.

C. Courses

Graduate level courses of interest to political methodology students that have been offered in recent years include:

1. Game Theory and Political Analysis
2. Formal Models of Domestic Institutions
3. Formal Models of International Relations
4. Qualitative Methods
5. Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry
6. Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science
7. Multivariable Statistical Inference for Political Research
8. Time Series Analysis
9. Machine Learning
10. Bayesian Statistics
11. Experimental Methods

D. PoliSciU

Many additional courses are also offered remotely through the PoliSci U in Advanced Political Methodology, a cooperative program between Wisconsin and three other CIC institutions (Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio State). For these courses, students register and receive course credit as a topics course (PS 919).

E. Courses in Related Departments

There are also relevant courses offered in Statistics, Biostatistics, Sociology, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Economics, Agricultural & Applied Economics, Computer Science, Anthropology, History, Geography, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Policy Studies, and other related departments.

V. Political Theory

A. Overview

Political Theory at Wisconsin is a wide-ranging field that covers 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 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.

1. Ancient and Medieval Political Thought. The study of the Western political theory begins with the earliest written texts of the Western canon and runs through the 15th century. You will read classic works of Greek and Roman thought, late Antiquity, 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.
2. Early Modern Political Thought. We study the continuing history of political ideas from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment, taking up humanism, the Reformation, the scientific revolution and its development, social contract, natural rights, republicanism, imperialism, and other intellectual currents of the 15th, 16th, and 17th 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 thought shapes and informs the major currents and arguments of modern and contemporary political thought.
3. Modern Political Thought. Modern political thought ranges from the 18th century to the end of WWII. 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.

4. Contemporary Political Thought. Contemporary political theory begins in the aftermath of WWII 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, conservatism, post-colonialism, multiculturalism, and other current topics of debate.

5. Continental Political Thought. Continental political thought 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.

6. Law and Legal Thought. 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 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.

C. Courses

Graduate level courses of interest to Political Theory students that have been offered in recent years include:

1. Adam Smith's Political Thought
2. Concepts in Political Theory
3. Conservative Political Thought
4. Continental Political Thought: Heidegger
5. Democratic Theory
6. Economic Inequality and Modern Political Thought
7. Feminist Political Theory
8. Greek Democracy
9. Hobbes & Political Theory
10. Reading Machiavelli
11. Field Seminar in Political Theory
12. Morality in Commercial Society
13. Post-Marxist Continental Theory
14. Postwar Liberalism
15. Roman Political Thought
16. Rousseau on Education
17. Early Modern Theory

18. Sincerity and Authenticity
19. Theory & Practice of Representation
20. Tocqueville's Democracy in America
21. Virtue Theory