

**Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Version 2.7 – July 2010

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

**CHAPTER ONE**

**I. General Structure of the Program**

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

- A. take and pass Political Science 800 in your first semester
- B. take and pass a research design course (Political Science 816 or 817)
- C. take and pass three additional credits of coursework in statistical methodology
- D. meet with your advisor to discuss the faculty's First Year Assessment of your progress in the program by the start of your third semester
- E. take and pass two general prelims from the specified list (International Relations, American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Political Methodology) by the beginning of your sixth semester
- F. complete the Graduate School Minor requirement (9 credits) and meet the minimum credit requirement (32 credits)
- G. maintain minimum of B average in coursework
- H. complete all Incompletes before defending the dissertation proposal
- I. produce an approved dissertation proposal by the start of your seventh semester
- J. write, defend and deposit a thesis of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge

## II. Getting Advice

- A. One of the first people you will meet is the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Graduate Program Coordinator can give invaluable information on many of the questions you will have. If you have a question about specific procedures, deadlines, forms, and so on, you should always check with the Graduate Program Coordinator even if you have received advice from other individuals.
- B. During your first week in the department you will have an appointment with the Associate Chair. The Associate Chair is the director of graduate studies for the department. The Associate Chair will be happy to give advice throughout your career here in discussing department policies and requirements and defining your academic goals and program. The Associate Chair will also help you pick an advisor. Your advisor will be your first source of advice on questions concerning your work here. The Associate Chair will try to help you find an advisor whose interests you share. It is common for graduate students to change their advisor as their own interests change. All that needs to be done to change advisors is to obtain the consent of your new advisor and to notify both faculty members involved, the Associate Chair, and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Students should also feel free to bring their questions to other faculty members.
- C. 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 evaluation of their performance.
- D. Students will also receive evaluations of their performance as teaching assistants for each semester in which they TA.

## III. Selecting Courses

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

- A. In selecting your initial courses, you will need to balance several considerations. First, you should take courses that build your portfolio of research techniques and methods. Second, you need to take courses that will help prepare you for the two prelims that you will take approximately two years after your entry into the program. Third, you will want to take courses in areas that introduce you to approaches, material, and ideas with which you are unfamiliar. We recognize that many of you will not have had the opportunity as undergraduates to become familiar with all the approaches and areas covered in this department. Your advisor will help you strike the right balance between expanding your intellectual horizons, building your analytical tool kit, and preparing effectively for prelims. Try not to view every course you take as something that must lead directly to preparing for prelims; you will miss some excellent opportunities if you pursue course

selection with only that objective in mind.

- B. As you will see from the rules in Chapter Two, there are a small number of courses that we require you to take: PS 800 (Political Science as a Discipline and Profession) and either 816 (Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry: Qualitative) or 817 (Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry: Quantitative). We also require you to take three additional credits of statistical methods instruction; these credits can be taken in this department or another department. If you are unsure whether a particular course in another department would be considered acceptable, you should check with the chair of the Methods field and with the Associate Chair. The desirability of obtaining a thorough training in methods cannot be overemphasized. Those who do not understand statistics are cut off from most contemporary work in American Politics and much contemporary work in Comparative Politics and International Relations. 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 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. The department's research workshops provide valuable opportunities for learning about, and eventually presenting your, ongoing research projects. You are strongly encouraged to find a workshop or two in which to participate on a regular basis. Students who have not yet taken prelims should only enroll for 1 or 2 credits; student who have passed prelims should enroll for 3 credits. The Research and Writing Seminar, PS 801, is a one-semester course that provides Political Science doctoral students with a concentrated opportunity for turning promising research papers into journal articles and book chapters.
- D. Each course has its own requirements. However, all courses are designed so that the work required can be completed during the semester. We advise strongly against taking an incomplete for courses. Incompletes tend to accumulate, progressively reducing your ability to focus on work required for new courses you have started. Moreover, incompletes on your record are usually a disadvantage in competitions for financial aid (see below). Ultimately, if incompletes are not cleared, the Graduate School may deny you permission to register. If you have an incomplete after a semester, clear it as soon as possible. **No student can receive a degree or defend the dissertation proposal with outstanding incompletes.**
- E. Because the department offers a large variety of courses, it is rarely necessary for students to register for Political Science 999 (Independent Reading) except, perhaps, in the final stages of preparing for preliminary examinations. Ideally, a 999 will not simply duplicate the reading list from a regularly offered course, and some faculty might refuse a request to do such a 999. If you do take a 999 you will need the consent of the professor. Be sure you agree clearly with the professor (preferably in writing) at the outset on the type of work and assignments required and the number of credits (2 or 3) you can earn. Forms for stating such agreements are available from the Graduate Program Coordinator. Only three credits of 999 coursework can be counted toward an M.A. or Minor requirement.
- F. Your courses are only one element in your education. Be sure to use other resources

available to you, including seminars and special lectures given by visitors, attending talks by job candidates, and participating in conferences. Make contact with faculty in the department whose work interests you even if you are not taking a course with them. You aren't an undergraduate any longer; don't be just another face in a seminar or lecture! As a scholar in training, take the opportunities offered to you to enhance your professional development.

#### IV. Normal Progress

- A. You will hear a great deal about “making normal progress” during your time here. Students making normal progress are given higher priority for TA assignments and other financial aid than are those students off normal progress. They are also given more favorable consideration for departmental fellowship and award nominations. A student not making normal progress may lose his or her guarantee of financial aid or be dropped from the program.

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

1. meet with your advisor to discuss your First Year Assessment and submit the First Year Assessment form prior to the start of your third semester.
2. take an appropriate course load and achieve satisfactory average grades (B or better). If you have not yet achieved dissertator status and are not a TA or PA, the expectation is that you take a minimum of three courses (9 credits) a semester; most students in this situation take four courses. 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); most students in this situation take three courses. You should take as many as courses as possible at the 700 level and above.
3. take and pass the two general prelims before the start of the sixth semester, except for students requiring extensive language or methodological training who may be granted one extra semester, as determined by the Associate Chair. Three or more courses in foreign language or statistics (not including the required research design course and additional statistical methods 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. submit an acceptable dissertation proposal by the beginning of the seventh semester.
5. complete the dissertation in a reasonable time after prelims and the proposal.

Our program is designed so that completing your Ph.D. in five years, and certainly six, is a feasible goal.

- B. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the department recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Specific provisions for granting extensions for completion of the prelims are outlined above, and those for dissertation proposals are outlined below. More generally, 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 normal extension 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.

## V. Graduate School Rules: Credits and Minors

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

- A. The Graduate School establishes the minimum number of UW-Madison credits that you must have in courses numbered 300 or above to receive a graduate degree. A Ph.D. requires 32 or more credits at or above the 300 level. The Graduate School will not transfer any work done at another institution toward fulfillment of the minimum UW-Madison credit requirement. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in these courses to receive their degrees. All credits taken at UW-Madison, including those taken during the summer and at a distance, count toward this requirement so long as the course is considered a UW-Madison course.
- B. As you plan out your courses, you will need to be thinking about when to take courses to satisfy your Minor requirement. Many students focus on the Minor in the fall of their third year. You should think of the Minor as a chance to add some additional research skills, concentrate in an area in which you'd like some teaching competency, or focus on an area that you believe might be beneficial for your dissertation research. The Minor requirement can be met in two ways, Option A or Option B.
1. The **Option A**, "External Minor" requires a minimum of at least 9 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. The **Option B**, "Distributed Minor" requires a minimum of 9 credits that can be taken in multiple outside departments or across subfields within the Political Science department.
    - a. One possible path for the Distributed Minor is an "Internal Minor" in which all 9 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 that constituted 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 816 or 817 toward a Minor unless both courses are taken, in which case one of them could be counted.

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

## VI. Financial Aid

- A. Financial aid 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 in the department and that your teaching or other responsibilities are performed well. If either of these conditions does not hold, your financial guarantee may be terminated.
- B. How are these positions allocated? The Associate Chair allocates a small number of PAships 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. TA appointments are made by the Graduate Program Coordinator after soliciting course preferences from graduate students. In addition to student preferences, the following factors are taken into account when making TA appointments:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Seniority in the program. Generally speaking, students who are further along in their program are more likely to get one of their top preferences, but this is by no means guaranteed, as the other factors mentioned in this section and department needs to staff particular courses are also considered. Priority for non-section TA positions goes to first-year students. If such positions are still available and not needed by first year students, the normal seniority preferences will apply.
  - c. Qualifications. Students are given priority for courses in which they have expertise or prior teaching experience.

- d. Instructional needs of the department. This includes the balancing of junior and senior TAs in a course.
  - e. Academic performance. This includes coursework, incompletes, prelim grades, and dissertation progress, where applicable.
  - f. Previous teaching record.
  - g. 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.
  - h. Availability of funds.
- C. A student who does not provide his/her TA preferences prior to the stated deadline may not be able to be accommodated with a TA appointment. A failure to comply with deadlines removes the department's obligation to find financial support for the student.
- D. Consistent with the collective bargaining agreement, every student is on probation for their first appointment as a teaching assistant or project assistant in the Political Science Department. Probation may be extended to a second semester by TA Evaluation Committee.

## VII. 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, that will be crucial in getting you your first job.** It is your dissertation that you will mine for publications as an assistant professor as you build a tenurable record. You will live with your thesis and subsequent publications for many years and it will have a major impact in defining your academic career. It follows that you should select a thesis topic with great care, consulting widely with faculty on your ideas for a thesis. It is your job, not the faculty's, to identify a research topic, but faculty are certainly ready, willing, and able to help you sort through the possibilities you have identified.

- A. In selecting a topic for your dissertation you will have to make a trade-off between defining a topic that is "do-able" with the resources and time available, and defining a topic of potential intellectual significance. Your task is to identify a question that is likely to be of theoretical interest to a range of scholars in your field. A well-chosen question is critically important. The sign of a good question is that virtually *any* answer to the question will interest other scholars. If you start the other way—what would be an interesting answer for me to find—you may find yourself quite worried if your research doesn't support that answer and trying hard to salvage the answer. You have to avoid both the grand but unmanageable thesis topic and the insignificant topic. You should think carefully about the "so what" question—that is, why should anyone care what the

answer to the question is? Make sure you consult with your committee as you are developing your question. Departmental workshops are also useful for getting feedback on dissertation ideas.

- B. You are expected to produce a dissertation proposal before the start of your seventh semester. Writing the proposal is an essential process to go through, for it will force you into confronting 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.
- C. 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.

### VIII. Placement

Most people who finish the program look for academic jobs. Our graduate students work in all varieties of universities and colleges ranging from the most famous to the obscure. The job prospects of our graduate students are determined both by their ability and by the market conditions in their field. In some years, many good 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 good enough to apply. Second, the department will give you all possible help in finding a suitable job.

- A. Your advisor and the Associate Chair will help you decide when you are ready to go on placement. The season usually begins in August with online job listings at the American Political Science Association website ([www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)). However, some listings are posted even earlier than this. It is your job to check the site frequently to read new listings and identify jobs that interest you.
- B. The Associate Chair cannot decide for you questions such as the type of institution (e.g., liberal arts college or research university) or geographical region of the country in which you should work. You need to consider, therefore, what type of institution and what parts of the country you would like to work in. Be aware that the more flexible you are about regions and institutions in which you could work, the easier it will be to find a job.
- C. In general, you should not consider going on placement until you are sufficiently advanced with your thesis to have a minimum of two revised chapters that you feel are of the highest standard you can produce, and be sure that you will finish your dissertation within the academic year. Most quality departments are unwilling to accept on face value vague assurances that you will “defend some time next summer”; you will have to be able to convince them that you really are close to finishing a good dissertation. The more you have finished, the better, as you will be competing against students who have completed their dissertations as well as assistant professors looking to move to a new department.
- D. You need to arrange with at least three faculty members who know you well to place letters in the file. Give faculty plenty of time and adequate application material so that they can write strong letters.

- E. A meeting is held annually in May for people going on placement. At this meeting, the Associate Chair will give you further information on placement. The Associate Chair also examines all placement files and makes suggestions to you about how your file might be improved.

## IX. Professional Conduct

The Department of Political Science abides by the university's code of academic conduct. Information about the university's definitions, policies, and disciplinary sanctions are available at <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>. When an instructor suspects a student has committed academic misconduct in a non-course setting (conference papers, project assistantship, project data, etc.), he or she should notify the Associate Chair. The Associate Chair will consult with other faculty when appropriate and decide on a disciplinary sanction. Sanctions range from a written reprimand that may be placed in the student's department file to removal from the program. If a student is removed from the program, he or she is not removed from the university. The decision to remove the student from the university is part of the university's official misconduct review process. When an instructor suspects a student has committed academic misconduct in a course, he or she will be guided by the university's academic misconduct process. The instructor also has the option of recommending to the Associate Chair that the student be removed from the department's graduate program. The Associate Chair, after consultation with faculty, will decide whether this disciplinary action is appropriate.

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

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

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

The department adheres to the university's policies on sexual and other forms of harassment. For further information on sexual harassment and the procedures for filing a complaint, consult the university's Office of Equity and Diversity (<http://www.oed.wisc.edu/sexualharassment>) or contact the Chair, Associate Chair, or chair of the department's Equal Opportunity Work and Study Environment Committee.

**Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Version 2.7 – July 2010

**CHAPTER TWO**

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

**I. The M.A.**

- A. To obtain an M.A., students must complete 18 credits of coursework with at least a 3.00 average. Grades of BC are not considered satisfactory but such grades may be offset by grades of AB and A respectively. Grades below a C may not be counted for credit under any circumstances. No more than 36 credits may be taken to achieve the required minimum grade point average.
- B. At least 12 of the 18 credits must be in Political Science and 9 of those credits must be earned at the 700 level or above. No more than 3 credits of PS 999 can count toward the 18 credits.
- C. Courses taken outside the department must be chosen in consultation with a student's advisor and must be at a level (300 or above) for which graduate credit is available.

**II. The Ph.D.**

- A. To become ABD ("all but the dissertation"), and thus have reduced tuition and a lower credit enrollment, a student must:
  - 1. Meet with his/her advisor to discuss his/her First Year Assessment.
  - 2. Pass general prelims 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 a course in research design (PS 816 or PS 817), the course Political Science as a Discipline and Profession (PS 800), and three additional credits of statistical methods instruction.
  - 4. Complete the Graduate School minimum credit requirement and Minor requirement.

5. Earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average.
6. Have no Incompletes.
7. Receive your advisor's approval of a tentative dissertation title, abstract, and the names of three likely committee members (one of whom is your advisor) who would serve on the dissertation committee. Submit this information to the Graduate Program Coordinator, who will then request a warrant for admission to candidacy to be signed by the three faculty members. Defending a dissertation proposal also satisfies this requirement.

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

1. Successfully defend a dissertation proposal.
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 five current graduate faculty members, of whom at least three must be Political Science faculty. At least one of the five faculty members must represent a graduate field outside your major. Four positive votes are required to pass the defense.
4. Deposit an approved copy of the dissertation with the Graduate School.

### III. Ph.D. Requirements

A. Preliminary Exams

1. Except for the field of Political Methodology, prelims are held in August and January before the start of the semester. (The Political Methodology prelim structure is described in section IV of this chapter.) Students taking the exam in Comparative Politics need to announce the subfields from which they will answer questions when they sign up for prelims. Students may take both exams at either the August or January sittings, or choose to take one exam at each sitting. If a student chooses to take one exam at each sitting, the fields may be done in either order. A student not successfully completing both exams by the January sitting that precedes the sixth semester will be considered off normal progress unless the Associate Chair grants a one-sitting exemption related to extensive language or methods training (see Chapter 1, section IV on "normal progress").
  - a. The Associate Chair will have the authority to vary this timetable if circumstances such as public holidays prevent compliance with it. Any departure from this timetable will be well publicized.
  - b. Except in the most compelling circumstances as determined by the Associate Chair, a student who does not take the prelims for which he or she has been scheduled will be considered to have received a grade of Deficient for that exam.
  - c. A student who has signed up to take a prelim exam in August will have until July 1 to notify the Graduate Program Coordinator of any change in plans. A student who

has signed up to take a prelim exam in January will have until December 1 to notify the Graduate Program Coordinator of any change in plans.

2. 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.
3. 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. The format of the exams gives students ample time to think and reflect on their answers.
4. Students will have 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.
5. Students are encouraged to work with other students in preparing for prelims, but the writing of prelims is an independent exercise. Upon receipt of the prelim, students may not discuss the prelim questions or answers. Violations of this policy, as determined by the Associate Chair, will be considered grounds for a grade of Deficient on the exam.
6. Except for the field of Political Methodology, the prelim exam in the First Field will be a 56-hour take-home exam (typically distributed Monday or Wednesday 8am; due Wednesday or Friday 4pm, respectively) that requires the student to answer four questions. At least one of these questions will be of a broad, theoretical nature. Students will be given the list of questions for the entire exam at the start of the exam. Students are limited to 8,000 words for the four questions combined, or approximately 25 pages. Each field can set the word/page allocation per question or simply limit students to the overall limit.
  - a. When signing up to take the prelims, each student will identify a Focus Field. The Focus Field is an area in the first field within which the student's dissertation research will possibly take place. This field will be narrower than a standard subfield. Examples of Focus Fields in the four substantive fields might be:
 

American Politics: Congress; presidency; bureaucracy; federalism; urban politics; political parties; interest groups; American political development; public opinion;

Comparative Politics: Political development; legislatures; executives; bureaucracy; party systems; political behavior; comparative law; associational life; center-periphery relations; policy making; culture; democratization; gender, health; political symbols; political violence; protest and revolution; religion; social movements; social policy'

International Relations: Theories of international relations; international security; international political economy; global social issues; international institutions;

Political Theory: Feminist theory; critical race theory; republicanism; American

political thought; democratic theory; post-modernism; post-structuralism; natural law theories; liberalism; conservatism; radicalism; Marxism; egalitarianism; fascism; multiculturalism and identity; political ideology; communitarianism; libertarianism; language.

Fields will compile a list of possible Focus Fields; field chairs are authorized to approve other Focus Fields proposed by students. Once the Associate Chair is notified of the new addition, it will be added to a list maintained by the Graduate Program Coordinator. Students should consult this list.

- b. The Focus Field paper should be a two-page, doubled-spaced document (about 650 words total) that proposes two possible research questions and provides some indication of how one might go about researching them. This document requires the student to identify and craft two questions of theoretical interest and relate these questions to tractable research. For those taking the First Field prelim in August, the document will be submitted by the first day of classes in the fall semester; for those taking the First Field prelim in January, the document will be submitted by the first day of classes in the spring semester. Students are encouraged to begin writing the Focus Field questions well before the prelims, but are not to distribute the document to faculty for feedback prior to the oral exam.
- c. Each student will also complete an oral exam of no more than two hours in the First Field. The oral exam will normally be held within the first three weeks of the semester following the writing of the written portion of the exam. The oral exam will use the written exam as a point of departure, including the Focus Field document, and probe the student's knowledge of relevant literatures as well as the ability to discuss possible lines of research.
  - i. The committee on the oral exam will consist of three faculty members, at least two of whom have read the written exam in whole or in part. Whenever possible, the student's advisor should serve as chair of the committee. A faculty member who has read the written portion of the exam but is not on the oral examination committee shall convey his or her evaluation of the written portion of the exam to the field chair, who will distribute it to the committee.
  - ii. In cases where a student's performance on the written exam is exceptionally weak, such that there appears to be little prospect that the student could pass the exam (as determined by the field chair in consultation with other faculty as appropriate), the field chair will inform the student that he/she need not take the oral exam and the exam grade will be Deficient. The student has the final decision on whether to take the oral.
  - iii. During the oral exam, there is no fixed amount of time dedicated to the written exam and the focus field statement, but both will be covered. Students may also be asked other questions connected to the substance of the exam and field but which are not necessarily based on an answer to a prelim question.
  - iv. Each exam will be graded by or on behalf of field committees. Grades will be based on the written and oral exam combined. The sequence of grading

- will be as follows: 1) the Graduate Program Coordinator provides faculty graders with the written exam, marked only with the student's code; 2) each faculty grader submits to the Graduate Program Coordinator a provisional grade for the written portion of the exam; 3) the Graduate Program Coordinator provides the faculty graders with the Focus Field research directions paper, marked with the name of the student; and 4) the oral prelim is conducted.
- v. Students will be given their grade following completion of the oral exam. Students will not be provided with separate grades for the written and oral portions of the exam. 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.
- d. Except for the field of Political Methodology, the preliminary exam in the Second Field will be a 56-hour take-home exam (typically distributed Monday or Wednesday 8am; due Wednesday or Friday 4pm, respectively) that requires the student to answer three questions. At least one of these questions should be of a broad, theoretical nature. Students will be given the list of questions for the entire exam at the start of the exam. Students will be limited to 6,000 words for the three questions combined, or about 19 pages. Each field can set the word/page allocation per question or simply limit students to the overall limit.
- i. The content of the written exam for the Second Field will be identical to that for the First Field (see above). The difference between the two will be the number of questions answered.
  - ii. There will be no oral exam or Focus Field document in the Second Field.
  - iii. Each exam will be graded by or on behalf of field committees. 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.
  - iv. Students will receive their exam grade by e-mail (and by a letter placed in the student's department mailbox). If the student is taking both First and Second Field exams, notification will take place upon the conclusion of the First Field oral exam. If the student is only taking the second field prelim, notification will occur no later than the final day of oral exams.
  - v. A student receiving a grade of Deficient at two sittings on either the First Field exam or the Second Field exam will be removed from the graduate program.
  - vi. Once a student has received a grade of Deficient on a prelim, he/she is considered off normal progress until he/she retakes and passes the exam. Students may sit twice for each prelim. Exceptions to this rule will be considered by the Prelim Appeal Committee which shall grant exceptions in only the most extraordinary circumstances. The decision of the Appeal Committee will be final.

- vii. Any field committee that wishes to change its exam policies from those set out in Chapter 2 will present the proposed changes to the Associate Chair who will forward them to the Graduate Program Committee and the department for comment and approval.

#### D. Formation of Dissertation Committees

After the completion of the oral prelim, the student will consult with his or her advisor and the Associate Chair about the composition of the dissertation proposal and dissertation defense committees and provide a provisional list to the Graduate Program Coordinator. Whenever possible, students should be encouraged to seek out the assistance of faculty who have relatively fewer advising responsibilities and avoid overburdening faculty who already have relatively greater advising responsibilities. A balance of committee members should be chosen so as to provide encouragement for the project and critical feedback.

#### E. Dissertation Proposal

1. Prior to 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. At the conference, 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. The conference normally lasts 90 to 120 minutes.
  - a. A student who fails to defend a proposal to the satisfaction of his/her committee prior to the start of the seventh semester shall be deemed to be off normal progress.
  - b. 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.
2. 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.
3. The dissertation proposal committee will consist of a chair and at least two additional members. The chair of the committee will also be considered the student's advisor. One of these two additional members may be from a department outside Political Science. On a committee with more than three members, one additional member may be from outside Political Science.

4. The proposal defense will consist of two portions, the first of which encourages the participation of faculty and graduate students in Political Science and the second of which will be a workshop format involving only the student and the faculty committee members. Both portions will be chaired by the student's advisor. For a defense to go forward, the student must publicize (via email to department faculty and graduate students, at least one week in advance) the proposal title, abstract, and time and venue of the defense.
  - a. In the first portion of the defense, the student will make a 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.
  - b. 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.
5. Following committee approval of the proposal, the student will provide a copy of the proposal to the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Associate Chair will approve the proposal on behalf of the department. The student will supply the Graduate Program Coordinator with a one-page summary of the proposal that will be distributed to department faculty and graduate students.
6. No student can defend the proposal with outstanding Incompletes. Incompletes must be cleared up 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. In extraordinary circumstances (e.g. the professor in the course is out of the country for two months, or has had a paper for at least two months and has not turned in a grade), the student may provide a copy of the completed coursework to the Associate Chair (or the Chair in the Associate Chair's absence) who may clear the student to defend the proposal.
7. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the defense so that a result can be communicated to the Graduate Program Coordinator prior to 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, electing to pursue an M.A. degree or significant coursework in another department, etc. Personal circumstances, as explained in Chapter One, can also be a valid reason for giving students more time to defend their dissertation proposals. The normal extension will be one semester for personal reasons or one to two semesters for academic reasons; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances.

#### F. Dissertation

1. A dissertation (thesis) that is an original contribution to knowledge must be completed within five years following the attainment of ABD status. Graduate School rules provide that if the dissertation is not completed within five years of completing prelims, the prelims might need to be retaken.
2. Students must comply with the university rules on the format of the final version of Ph.D. theses; guidance on these rules is available from the Graduate School.

3. Students intending to submit a thesis for defense must contact the Graduate Program Coordinator in a timely manner (at least three weeks prior to defense date) to obtain necessary documents and allow the arrangements to be made for the defense.
4. Students are responsible for creating a dissertation committee. The committee members may be, but are not required to be, the same as those on the dissertation proposal committee. The final oral defense committee will consist of at least five members. The chair must be from the Political Science Department. At least three members must be political scientists. One or two members must be from outside the discipline, and one of these may be from outside the UW-Madison campus. Consistent with Graduate School policy, there will be no formal distinction between “readers” and “non-readers” on dissertation committees. If a student and advisor decide that some committee members will informally perform a role similar to that of the “non-reader,” no more than two committee members shall be in this category. The department encourages students to select the full set of committee members early in the dissertation research process.
5. The dissertation shall be defended at a two-hour oral exam before the dissertation committee.
6. Copies of the dissertation shall be made available to members of the committee no later than two weeks before the oral defense.
7. To successfully defend the dissertation, the committee must be satisfied that the dissertation is an original and significant contribution to knowledge, that the arguments of the thesis are presented coherently, and that the arguments of the thesis are supported adequately by evidence and documentation. The committee must also be satisfied that the student has a broad and intensive knowledge of the major field in which the thesis is written. At least four positive votes are required to pass the defense.
8. An approved copy of the dissertation must be deposited with the Graduate School.

#### IV. Field Committee Policies

##### **American Politics**

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

The American politics field consists of the following subfields.

- a. National Institutions
  - Presidency
  - Congress
  - Supreme Court

### Bureaucracy

- b. Federalism and subnational politics
  - Federal system
  - State politics (including state and local institutions such as the judiciary, legislatures, and governors)
  - Urban politics
- c. Political behavior
  - Mass and elite behavior (including political culture and political communication)
  - Public opinion
  - Socialization
  - Elections
- d. Policy, Political Economy, and Public Administration
- e. Extragovernmental Organizations
  - Parties
  - Interest groups
  - Social movements
- f. Constitutional Law and Administrative Law

### Course Requirements

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 551 and PS 552 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.

The requirement to take PS 551 and PS 552 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.

### Prelims

**First Field:** Students will answer four questions – two general questions and one from each of two subfields. Students will be given four or five general questions to choose from and two questions to choose from in each of six subfields. Students may answer questions from any subfield. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

The Focus Fields for American politics as a First Field include, but are not limited to: American political development, bureaucracy, Congress, elections and electoral behavior, federalism, interest groups, judicial process, political parties, political communication, political participation, political psychology, presidency, public administration, various aspects of public law, public opinion, public policy, race and politics, social movements, state politics, urban politics, and women and politics.

The oral exam committee will be comprised of three faculty members who have read the student's written preliminary exam, in whole or in part, unless scheduling considerations make

it impossible. In this instance the committee could include one faculty member who has not read the written exam.

**Second Field:** Students will answer three questions—at least one general question and two other questions from any part of the exam (general or subfield). The second and third questions may both come from the same subfield, from different subfields, both from the general section, or one from the general section and one from a subfield. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

Internal Minor:

No special course requirements for an Internal Minor (Option B) in American Politics.

**Comparative Politics**

Requirements

1. **Foreign languages:** All students studying Comparative Politics as a First Field are expected to achieve reasonable proficiency in the foreign language or languages most relevant to their dissertation research. The specific language or languages, as well as the necessary degree of proficiency will vary from region to region and theme to theme, and is thus left to the discretion of the major advisor. There is no foreign language requirement for students doing Comparative Politics as a Second Field.
2. **Required courses:** All students doing Comparative Politics as either a First or a Second Field must take PS 856, the Comparative Field Seminar.
3. **Methodology:** All students of Comparative Politics are governed by the department's methodology requirements (i.e., one course in research design — either PS 816 or PS 817 — plus three additional credits of instruction in statistical methods). A list of possible options for the methods credits is provided in Chapter 3. Students should consult closely with their major advisor concerning the most useful and suitable courses.

Prelims

For the purposes of the preliminary examination, the field of Comparative Politics consists of seventeen subfields: six themes and eleven areas.

The themes are:

Regime Types and Transitions  
 Culture and Social Identities  
 Political Economy  
 Society and State  
 Institutions  
 Contentious Politics and Violence

Other concentrations such as:  
 Politics and Gender  
 Law and Comparative Politics  
 Comparative Political Behavior  
 Public Policy

The areas are:

Africa	Latin America
China	Middle East
East Asia	North America
Eurasia	South Asia
Europe	Southeast Asia
Japan	

**First Field:** Students taking Comparative Politics as a First Field will answer four questions from three subfields declared when the student signs up for the prelim. Students must answer questions on at least two themes. In other words, students may answer questions on: (a) one area and two themes or (b) three themes.

Students planning on option (a) may request permission to modify it as follows: within the area-focused part of the exam, questions would be answered on two areas instead of one. Students choosing option (a) who are also taking the American Politics prelim may not select North America as a subfield. In addition, students may ask to be examined on an area not listed above (for example, the Pacific Rim, the Muslim world, or constitutional democracies).

At least one question must be selected from each of the subfields and at least one of the four questions selected must be one of those designated as a broadly integrative theoretical question [BITQ]. There will be at least one BITQ found among the questions offered for each theme. Each subfield will contain three questions. There will be at least two BITQs on each exam.

All questions will be weighted equally, and the field committee strongly suggests that students apportion their time and total word count to reflect this.

Each exam will be read by a grading committee of at least three faculty members. Exams may also be read by others whose advice the grading committee wishes to obtain.

**Oral Examination:** The oral examination committee consists of three members. Unless scheduling considerations make it impossible, the committee will include at least two individuals who have read the written portion of the examination.

**Focus Fields:** Focus Fields in Comparative Politics include, but are not limited to, the following: associational life, comparative executives, comparative legislatures, cultural pluralism, democratization, gender, health, industrial development, law and judiciaries, political symbols, political violence, popular culture, protest and revolution, religion, social movements. Students may propose other Focus Fields to the Field Chair who will circulate their proposals to the members of the committee for approval.

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

**Second Field:** The guidelines for the First Field written examination will also apply to students doing Comparative Politics as a Second Field with one exception: they will write a total of three questions rather than four. Of these three questions, one must come from each subfield and one of the three selected must be a BITQ.

Internal Minor:

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

### **International Relations**

#### *Requirements*

Students choosing International Relations as a First Field must take PS857: International Relations Theories, and at least three additional courses in the field. Students choosing International Relations as a Second Field must take PS857: International Relations Theories, and at least two additional courses in the field.

#### *Prelims*

The International Relations field is divided into five principal subfields listed below. Prelim exam questions will be written in each of the five subfields. Listed under each subfield are some of the important topics studied in that subfield.

1. Theories of International Relations
  - a. Bargaining
  - b. Cooperation
  - c. Socialization
2. International Security
  - a. War and terrorism
  - b. Arms proliferation and arms control
  - c. Alliances
3. International Political Economy
  - a. Trade
  - b. Finance
4. Global Social Issues
  - a. The environment
  - b. Human rights
  - c. Migration
5. International Institutions
  - a. International organizations
  - b. International law

**First Field:** Each student must answer one and only one question from the Theories of International Relations section of the exam. The other answers shall be in response to questions from at least two of the other four sections. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

At least two out of three of the faculty on the oral exam committee will have read the exam in whole or in part.

The list of Focus Fields includes but is not limited to the topics listed above under each

principal subfield. Additional Focus Fields may be proposed to the field chair.

**Second Field:** Each student must answer one and only one question from the Theories of International Relations section of the exam. The remaining two answers shall be in response to questions from any two of the other four sections. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

### **Political Methodology**

The Political Methodology field consists of three subfields:

Research Design and Data Collection  
Statistical Methods and Computation  
Formal Theory

The format of the Political Methodology prelim differs from that in the other fields. The following four requirements must be satisfied to complete Methods as a First Field. The first three requirements must be satisfied to complete Methods as a Second Field:

1. **Completion of a program of study approved by the field chair.** The program should involve course work in the three subfields to ensure breadth. Those taking methods as a Second Field will generally complete six courses; those taking it as a First Field will generally complete eight courses. This breadth requirement will normally be satisfied by one course in Research Design and Data Collection, one course in Formal Theory, and three courses in Statistics and Computation (PS 551, PS 552, and an elective). One additional course should be taken in one of the subfields to provide depth for those taking methods as a Second Field; three additional courses should be taken for those taking methods as a First Field. An approved program of study may include courses in other departments.
2. **Completion of a research paper that applies methods in a sophisticated way.** The paper may be based on research conducted for a course. It may involve careful analysis of data (qualitative or quantitative), the use of a formal model, or both. The methods it employs should be applied sufficiently skillfully to be appropriate for eventual submission to political science journals. In terms of format, it must comply with all the submission specifications for the *American Political Science Review*. The paper would be assessed as either satisfying the requirement or not satisfying it by two members of the faculty designated by the methods chair. Papers assessed as not satisfying the requirement may be revised and resubmitted once based on the written feedback of faculty readers. These same two faculty members will read the revised version.
3. **Completion of an essay that reviews some methodological issue in a sophisticated way.** The essay should be focused, provide a synthesis of the relevant literature, and be presented at a level appropriate for a general political science audience. It may include formal analysis, simulations, or other devices as appropriate for completing an effective review. Examples of this type of review essay are chapters in recent volumes such as the *Annual Review of Political Science* and the *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Although the appropriate length of the review will depend on the subject matter, care should be taken to be thorough but concise. The essay would be assessed as either satisfying the requirement or not satisfying it by two members of the faculty designated

by the methods chair. Papers assessed as not satisfying the requirement may be revised and resubmitted once based on the written feedback of faculty readers. These same two faculty members will read the revised version. Students should consult with the field chair about their selection of topics.

**4. Oral examination.** All those taking methods as a First Field must pass an oral examination and submit a Focus Field paper, as set out in the departmental rules. The Focus Field is the area in which the student's dissertation research will focus. Focus Fields must be flexible to accommodate the range of dissertation interests. Within methodology such Focus Fields might include philosophical issues of social science methodology and theory; statistical inference and methods of estimation; research design issues in either qualitative or quantitative studies; formal theory and its applications. In selecting a Focus Field students are encouraged to consult with the field chair and other appropriate faculty in the field.

### **Timing**

The research paper and review essay should be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator. They may be submitted separately. Those taking Methods as a First Field should submit the papers at least one month prior to the oral exam periods routinely scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Those taking Methods as a Second Field should submit papers no later than one month prior to the start of the semester in which they seek to complete the field.

### Internal Minor

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

### Political Theory

Political Theory consists of six major subfields:

Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy	Contemporary Political Theory
Early Modern Political Philosophy	Continental Political Theory
Modern Political Philosophy	Jurisprudence and Legal 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. All Political Theory students are required to take at least one course or its equivalent in both of these areas. 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 those areas of greatest interest to them.

### Requirements

Students taking Political Theory as a First Field are required to take a minimum of four graduate courses in the Department. They are expected to have a broad knowledge of the canon comprising the history of political thought. To this end, they are required to take courses in a minimum of three areas, distributed as follows:

1. one course in Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy,

2. one course in either Early Modern or Modern Political Theory
3. one course in Continental Political Theory, Contemporary Political Theory or Jurisprudence and Legal Theory

Finally, students need to master political theory as a vocation. To this end, they must take the PS833: Methods of Political Theory. Beyond these basics, students are encouraged to focus on areas of greatest interest to them.

Students who take Political Theory as a Second Field must take at least one course in Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy and one course in either Early Modern or Modern Political Philosophy.

### Prelims

**First Field:** Students taking Political Theory as a First Field must answer four questions, each from a different subfield, on the preliminary examination. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

The oral exam will be based on the written exam and the Focus Field document. Normally, all three committee members will have read the written exam in whole or in part, unless circumstances dictate that this is not possible.

The student may shape his or her own Focus Field, so long as it is a legitimate subject of study within the field of Political Theory, broadly construed. The following list of potential Focus Fields is meant to be illustrative only, not exhaustive: American political thought; communitarianism; conservatism; critical race theory; democratic theory; egalitarianism; fascism; feminist theory; language; liberalism; libertarianism; Marxism; multiculturalism and identity; natural law theories; political ideology; post-modernism; post-structuralism; radicalism; republicanism.

**Second Field:** Students taking Political Theory as a Second Field must answer three questions, each from a different subfield. Students do not need to declare subfields prior to the exam.

### Internal Minor

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

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

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

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

### A. Admission

Students in the Program must be admitted independently by the Political Science Department

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

## B. 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).

## C. 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.
  - a. Year 1 –First year of Political Science  
A student's first year program must be approved by his or her advisors. During the first year in the Political Science Department, a student is expected to take courses only in the Political Science Department, including Political Science 800. During the second semester of the first year in the Political Science Department, a student may take law-related course outside the Law School (including courses cross-listed with the Law School).
  - b. Year 2 –First year of Law School  
The first year of the Law School's curriculum has little flexibility. During the second semester, students may choose from a designated set of electives, and students in the dual-degree program should, if possible, choose an elective that maximizes the students' educational progress in both programs. For example, a dual degree student might take a Political Science course during the second semester in place of one of the designated set of electives. Students who opt to substitute a Political Science course for a second semester elective may need to take the missed elective in their third year to conform with the Law School's requirement that the first year curriculum be completed within two years from matriculation in law school.

c. Year 3 – Second Year in Political Science Department

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 and/or winter after the third year.

In August and/or January after 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). 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).

d. Year 4 and thereafter

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

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

**Note:** 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.

4. 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.

#### D. “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 who may be granted one extra semester, as determined by the Associate Chair. Three or more courses in foreign language or statistics (not including the required research design course or the required additional three methods 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 for an extra semester.

#### E. 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.

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

1. 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.
2. The Advisory Committee may approve waivers of the rules regarding the first two years of the program.
3. 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.

#### G. Administrative Provisions

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

**Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**GUIDE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Version 2.7 – July 2010

**CHAPTER THREE**

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

**I. American Politics**

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

PS 821 Mass Political Behavior  
PS 823 Political Psychology  
PS 825 Race and Politics in the United States  
PS 826 The Legislative Process  
PS 827 Interest Groups in American Politics  
PS 828 The Contemporary Presidency: Issues and Approaches  
PS 829 Political Communication  
PS 863 The Judicial Process

- PS 865 The Supreme Court and the Constitution (When this course is not offered in any two-year period, a student may take the undergraduate constitutional law course, 411-412, with consent of the instructor, or constitutional law given in the Law School.)
- PS 871 Public Program Evaluation
- PS 873 American Political Parties
- PS 874 The Policy-Making Process
- PS 875 Public Personnel Administration
- PS 876 Federalism and Intergovernmental Policy in the United States
- PS 878 Public Administration
- PS 881 American Political Development
- PS 885 Advanced Public Management: Craft, Constraints and Accountability
- PS 890 Federal Budget and Tax Policy and Administration
- PS 900 Topics in Political Science
- PS 904 Seminar: Topics vary; frequently offered seminars include “Classics in American Politics,” “Major Themes in American Politics,” and “Seminar in American Politics”
- PS 905 Seminar: American Public Policy
- PS 915 Seminar: Urban Politics
- PS 926 Seminar: Legislative Process
- PS 935 Seminar: Political Socialization
- PS 937 Seminar: Topics in Political Psychology and Sociology
- PS 945 Seminar: National Security Affairs
- PS 953 Seminar: American Foreign Policy
- PS 958 Seminar: Public Administration
- PS 963 Seminar: Law and Politics, various topics, for example, “Discrimination and the Law”
- PS 969 Seminar: Trends and Issues in Public Planning
- PS 973 Seminar: Political Parties
- PS 989 American Politics Workshop

### C. Subfields

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

#### 1. Extragovernmental Organizations

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

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

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

Political economy and public administration are among the oldest of social sciences. As long as there have been governments, individuals have been concerned about how government should act in economy and society. They have studied ways of improving government's performance. And as long as governments have been administering policy, analysts have examined the effects of those policies on individual citizens as well as on national and international economies. The public policy approach is one of political science's more recent efforts to understand how government institutions work together to fashion decisions, how those decisions are translated into action, and what results those actions produce.

The subfield thus embodies several fascinating and interlocking issues:

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

- f. **Theory.** Students of public policy use a variety of kinds of political theory. At times, they apply political philosophy to the normative issues of what governments should do and how they should do it. At times, their analyses call for economic, sociological, or psychological theories. They also draw on empirical political theory to design their research into the policy process and its effects.

The study of policy, political economy, and public administration thus has several important dimensions: an understanding of the crosscutting features of the policy process; knowledge of how policy decisions are administered; the ability to identify and judge policy results; and the perspective to fit these results into the broader political economy and social policy.

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

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

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

PS 874      The Policy-Making Process  
PS 878      Public Management

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

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

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

## II. Comparative Politics

- A. Comparative Politics is one of the oldest fields of political analysis, forming the basis for much of the writings of political philosophers throughout the ages. It was only in the nineteenth century, however, that the comparative method was first formally proposed as a means for elevating political thought to the level of a "science." But like any field of intellectual endeavor, there is no consensus among those who study comparative politics

concerning what the field is about. In particular, comparativists have found themselves pulled between two poles: that of the area-specialist and that of the social scientist. In some ways this tension is paralleled by two equally pervasive tensions: between those who are primarily inductive in their approach and those preferring a more deductive orientation; as well as a tension between those who are primarily oriented toward qualitative rather than quantitative methods. To be sure, some specialized knowledge is necessary to penetrate the politics of any society. That society-specific knowledge is all the more important when examining the politics of a foreign country. If one of the purposes of comparing politics is to escape ethnocentrism, then area-specific knowledge is that body of knowledge which allows one to transcend the boundaries of one's own culture. It is sometimes tempting in an American university setting to define comparative politics as the study of foreign (i.e., non-American) political systems. Indeed, many comparativists (particularly those subscribing wholly to an area-studies understanding of the field) view their roles as interpreters of the politics of foreign cultures. But interesting and significant work has been conducted studying American politics within a comparative perspective, and given the culture-transcending purposes of comparison, it seems proper to include American politics within the boundaries of the field as well. Moreover, the theoretical concerns of comparativists are in no way confined to the boundaries of any one culture, and even those who are inspired primarily by a desire to better understand other places and cultures often find that to do so most effectively they need to orient their primarily inductive empirical work along broadly comparative and deductive theoretical axes.

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

grounded in empirical observation. Comparativists, therefore, whether primarily inductive or deductive in their orientation have a serious commitment to the importance of relevant language training and extended field research as a major methodological tool of their trade. The comparative method, in other words, is primarily an empirical approach to studying politics that may rely heavily on both inductive and deductive reasoning. In its empirical grounding, comparative politics also differs in degree from political theory, which is more oriented heavily towards normative and moral reasoning.

2. The division between the area-studies and social science approaches to comparative politics need not polarize the field. It potentially provides for a creative tension and synthesis between fact and paradigm, and to a great extent both area-studies and comparative political theory have been mutually dependent on one another. Reflecting this, for those taking the comparative politics prelim examination, the subfields are divided into theoretical themes and geographical areas. Various combinations of subfields are possible within the confines of the program rules.

a. Themes:

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

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

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

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

*Political Institutions:* This theme deals with the comparative study of state and non-state, formal and informal political institutions, in both theoretical and empirical terms. It considers different definitions of political institutions, as well as their creation, function, evolution, and effects. Examples of political institutions include: executive and political leadership (e.g., the presidency or cabinet); legislative organization and behavior; executive-legislative relations; political parties, and party systems; electoral systems and elections; interest groups; public bureaucracy; political group organization; comparative law; courts and legal enforcement; civil-military relations; and federalism and subnational government.

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

*Regime Types and Transitions:* The nature of the political system, i.e., the type of political regime, has a large impact on political processes and outcomes. Authoritarian regimes come in a variety of quite diverse forms (monarchical, Leninist, sultanist, personal, military, clientelist, fascist, right populist, etc.). Democracies run the gamut from robust to shallow. Transitions can occur in any direction: from authoritarian to democratic regimes, from one kind of authoritarianism to another, and democracies can break down and become authoritarian regimes. Within a democratic regime, a transition can occur which makes the system far more democratic or democratic robustness can greatly ebb. Finally, political systems can fail in diverse ways, producing secession, failed states and/or civil war. Beyond the study of transitions and regime types, important questions are posed about the relation of regime type to growth, equity, communalist relations,

gender, stability, war, peace, etc.

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

b. Areas:

Africa	Latin America
China	Middle East
East Asia	North America
Eurasia	South Asia
Europe	Southeast Asia
Japan	

C. Graduate Courses Offered:

1. Political Science

PS 804 Interdisciplinary Western European Area Studies Seminar  
 PS 814 Social Identities: Definition and Measurement  
 PS 840 Comparative Political Economy  
 PS 841 Seminar in International Business and Government  
 PS 853 Comparative Political Institutions  
 PS 854 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict  
 PS 855 Politics and Culture in Comparative Perspective  
 PS 856 Field Seminar in Comparative Politics  
 PS 860 Authoritarianism and Its Aftermath  
 PS 861 Challenges of Democratization  
 PS 862 State and Society in Comparative Perspective  
 PS 948 Seminar: Topics in Comparative Politics  
 PS 949 Seminar: Post-Communist Politics  
 PS 950 Seminar: Comparative Politics: Western Nations  
 PS 952 Seminar: Comparative Politics: Developing Nations  
 PS 954 Seminar: Revolution and Violence  
 PS 961 Seminar: African Politics  
 PS 962 Seminar: Latin-American Politics  
 PS 967 Seminar: Asian Politics  
 PS 979 Seminar: Administration in Developing Countries  
 PS 981 Interdepartmental Seminar: Analysis of Western Europe  
 PS 982 Interdepartmental Seminar: Latin America Area

- PS 983 Interdepartmental Seminar: African Studies  
 PS 987 Comparative Politics Colloquium

2. Methods courses from outside the department: In addition, because the scope, objects, and methods of comparative politics are so broad, students may find it useful to consider some of the following courses as possible supplements to the department's courses in fulfilling their methodology requirements.

Anthropology 909	Research Methods and Research Design in Cultural Anthropology
History 774	Methods for Historical Research in Non-Literate Societies
History 795	Quantitative Methods for Historical Research
History 875	Applications of Quantitative Methods to Historical Research.
Sociology 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry
Sociology 358	Design and Analysis of Social Research
Sociology 359	Statistical Analysis of Social Research
Sociology 360	Statistics for Sociologists I
Sociology 361	Statistics for Sociologists II
Sociology 365	Computing in Sociological Research
Sociology 375	Introduction to Mathematical Sociology
Sociology 544	Introduction to Survey Research
Sociology 545	Ethnomethodology
Sociology 674	Elementary Demographic Techniques
Sociology 676	Applied Demography: American Demographics
Sociology 693	Practicum in Analysis and Research
Sociology 750	Research Methods in Sociology
Sociology 751	Survey Methods for Social Research
Sociology 752	Measurement and Questionnaires for Survey Research
Sociology 753	Comparative and Historical Methods in Sociology
Sociology 754	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology
Sociology 755	Methods of Qualitative Research
Sociology 758	Methods of Rural Social Research
Sociology 759	Mathematical Sociology
Sociology 964	Seminar--Design and Process of Survey Research
Sociology 974	Seminar--Demographic Methodology
Women's Studies 900	Research Methods in Women's Studies

### III. International Relations

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

International relations attempts to explain the interactions of states in the global interstate system, and it also attempts to explain the interactions of others whose behavior originates within one country and is targeted toward members of other countries. In

short, the study of international relations is an attempt to explain behavior that occurs *across* the boundaries of states, the broader relationships of which such behavior is a part, and the institutions (private, state, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental) that oversee those interactions. Explanations of that behavior may be sought at any level of human aggregation. Some look to psychological and social-psychological understandings of why foreign policymakers act as they do. Others investigate institutional processes and politics as factors contributing to the externally directed goals and behavior of states. Alternatively, explanations may be found in the relationships between and among the participants (for example, balance of power), in the intergovernmental arrangements among states (for example, collective security), in the activities of multinational corporations (for example, the distribution of wealth), or in the distribution of power and control in the world as a single system.

- B. To improve our understanding of international relations we need both to develop and refine theories of international politics and to carefully evaluate those theories against the data presented by the international system. Elegant theories created without much understanding of the realities of international affairs will fail to shed much light on them. Similarly, diligent data collection without a clear theoretical framework to guide decisions about what to measure, why, and how will not help us understand the mechanisms behind international events. Therefore we expect students to develop a grounding in both the theories we use to explain international relations and one or more specific issue areas that they are interested in understanding better. Political Science 857 will provide students with a first exposure to the theoretical side. This can be supplemented by further coursework on rational choice theory in political science (Political Science 835, 836 and 837). For the empirical side, the department offers several courses related to the subfields listed in Chapter Two.
1. Theories of International Relations
    - PS837 Formal Models of International Relations
    - PS857 International Relations Theories
    - PS940 Domestic Politics of International Relations
  2. International Security
    - PS945 Seminar-National Security Affairs
  3. International Political Economy
    - PS 864 International Political Economy
  4. Global Social Issues
    - PS 866 Global Environmental Governance
  5. International Institutions
    - PS 931 International Law and Politics Post World War II
    - PS 959 Seminar-International Organization

Other courses include PS 960 (a topics course) and PS 988 (the IR workshop).

#### IV. Political Methodology

- A. The Political Methodology field at Wisconsin is broadly defined. It includes training in qualitative and quantitative design, data collection, statistical methods, and formal theory. As a consequence, Wisconsin students are unusually well trained in the entire field and

are prepared to both teach and apply methodologies in all empirical fields of the discipline. The study of, and testing in, methods is not isolated from work in substantive fields, and the exam requires students to be able to apply the methodological questions (theory and technique) to the student's substantive area in an intelligent way.

B. Courses.

Most of the relevant course work should normally be expected to be within the Political Science department. However, a limited number of courses in other departments may be appropriate, especially when these extend a student's range beyond that offered within the department. For example, an advanced statistics course in the Economics department on time series analysis would be appropriate, or a second course in qualitative methods (beyond PS 816) in Anthropology, could be used to advantage by students wishing to concentrate in either of these subfields. In general however, students are cautioned that this is a subfield of political science, and wholesale substitution of courses outside the department will seldom be appropriate and should be done only after consultation with the field chair.

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

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

1. **Research Design and Data Collection.** This subfield concentrates on how social scientists make inferences from observation through the design, conduct, and interpretation of empirical analyses. Methods of observation and data collection are central considerations. Topics include concept formation, measurement, research design, historical, observational, experimental, and survey data collection.

*Relevant Courses:* PS 816, PS 817. See also related courses in Anthropology, Educational Psychology, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

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

*Relevant Courses:* PS 551, PS 552, PS 553, PS 818, PS 917, PS 919. See also related courses in Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Statistics if this will be an area of particular emphasis.

5. **Formal Theory.** This subfield includes game theory, social choice, and considers the behavior of rational actors in political settings of all kinds. Students doing work in this subfield should include technical classes such as PS 835

(Game Theory and Political Analysis) and PS 836 (Formal Models in Political Science) and the application of these methods to substantive problems such as those covered in 840 (Political Economy) and others.

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

## V. Political Theory

- A Political Theory at Wisconsin is a wide-ranging activity that covers all aspects of the history, philosophy, and application of political ideas. It includes both historical and thematic approaches to political theory. While we hope you will explore broadly and become familiar with the many fascinating dimensions of this field, on the preliminary examinations we will ask you to answer questions on only three of the subfields.
- B. Subfields: The following very brief descriptions of the subfields are intended for information only. They do not define what will be expected on examinations. The specific emphasis within the subfields will vary from year to year, depending on the courses offered and new developments within the fields. Please consult with participating faculty for reading lists and other information well before the examination. Students are also expected to take PS 839: Methods of Political Theory.
1. **Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy.** The study of the great Western tradition of political theory begins with the earliest written texts of the Western canon and runs through Machiavelli. You will read the classic works of Greek, Roman, early Christian, and Medieval, political theory, along with major interpretations of these works and important studies of the history of ideas in that period. The study of non-Western ancient and medieval thought may also be offered.

*Relevant courses:* PS 501, PS 506, PS 831-2, PS 833, PS 931-2 depending on topic

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

*Relevant courses:* PS 502, PS 503, PS 565, PS 831, PS832, PS 931, PS 932 depending on topic.

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

*Relevant courses:* PS 503, PS 503, PS 517, PS 519, PS 530, PS 506, PS 831-2, PS 931-2 depending on topic.

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

*Relevant courses (course numbers pending):* Democratic Theory; Feminist Theory: Sex and Sexualities; Critical Theory in International Politics; topics courses

5. **Continental Political Theory.** Continental political theory is the tradition of Kantian and post-Kantian philosophy and its reception in France and elsewhere. This includes schools such as Idealism, Romanticism, Historical Materialism, existentialism, Critical Theory, hermeneutics, phenomenology, poststructuralism, deconstruction and postmodernism. Major figures include Kant, Hegel, Goethe, Schiller, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Marx, Husserl, Horkheimer, Adorno, Sartre, Heidegger, Weber, Arendt, Kojève, Voegelin, Strauss, Foucault, Derrida, Bataille, Marcuse, Habermas, and so on.

*Relevant courses:* PS 820, PS 831-2, PS 931-2 depending on topic

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

*Relevant courses:* PS 830 and topics courses on Political Theories of Law; Law and Politics Post WWII: Arendt, Jaspers, and Schmitt; Laws of War.