

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE - PH.D. CURRICULUM**

(Revised spring 2003)

### **Purpose and Orientation**

The Ph.D. program provides advanced scholarly understanding of political science and international relations. Students are expected to develop the substantive knowledge, theoretical perspectives, and foreign language and methodological skills necessary for conducting research and teaching in these fields. Most students pursuing a Ph.D. anticipate employment at a university or research institute.

### **The Curriculum**

#### **CORE Curriculum - 21 hours**

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POLI 502      statistics (3 hr)  
POLI 706      statistics (3 hr)  
POLI 701      research design (3 hr)  
POLI 702      institutional and behavioral theories of politics  
POLI 707 or POLI 703 or POLI 714 – political theory (3 hr)  
POLI 711      intensive research experience

#### Basic Skills

Math (1 hr)  
Teaching (1 hr)  
Computers (1 hr)

### **Overview of Requirements in Political Science Ph.d.**

	<b><u>PS</u></b>
Core	21 hours
1 <sup>st</sup> field	15 hours
2 <sup>nd</sup> field	9 hours
Electives/Cognate	6 hours
<b>Minimum Course Work</b>	<b>51 hours</b>
Dissertation Prep	12 hours
<b>Minimum Total</b>	<b>63 hours</b>

The **Political Science** (PS) program offers six fields of study:  
*Field and Course Requirements.*

1. American Politics  
Gateway Proseminar: POLI 760
2. Comparative Politics  
Gateway Proseminar: POLI 780
3. International Relations  
Gateway Proseminar: POLI 715
4. Political Theory  
Gateway Proseminar: POLI 707
5. Public Administration & Policy  
Gateway Proseminars: POLI 770 and POLI 774
6. Research Methods (may only be offered as a Minor Field)  
Gateway Proseminar: POLI 706

### **Foreign Language and Methodological Skill Requirements**

The student in the Political Science Ph.D. program must have the appropriate tools for conducting research in the major field of study. The specific language and methodological skills required will be determined by the student's Program Advisory Committee and must be approved by the Graduate Director. Each committee will determine the skills necessary to fulfill the research and teaching interests of the student. Thus, the specific skills required will vary substantially among students. Courses taken to satisfy these skills requirements can be counted as part of the required 6 hours of course work in the "elective/cognate" category in each program.

### **MAJOR FIELD - 15 hours**

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chosen from any of fields of political science except Research Methods

### **MINOR FIELD - 9 hours**

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chosen from any of six fields of political science  
(Any combination of courses permitted)

### **ELECTIVES/ COGNATE/ REQUIRED SKILLS - 6 hours**

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A combination of a minimum of 6 hours of course work, approved by the students advisor and the graduate director, designed to provide the necessary language or other skills necessary to achieve the research and teaching interests of the student. May be taken either inside or outside of the Department of Political Science.

Each student who does not offer a field in Political Theory must take one of the following

courses:

POLI 707 (Classics in Political Theory)

POLI 703 (Democratic Theory)

POLI 714 ( Proseminar on American Political Thought).

or an alternative political philosophy course approved by the student's Program Committee.

### **DISSERTATION RESEARCH - 12 hours**

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**TOTAL:** minimum of 63 hours

\*Notes:

a) Each student must take the "Gateway Proseminar" in their first field (for the PA/Policy field, both gateway proseminars must be taken). Normally, this should be the first course taken in that field. The gateway proseminars in each field are:

POLI 760	AMERICAN POLITICS
POLI 780	COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLI 715	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
POLI 707	POLITICAL THEORY
POLI 770 <u>and</u> 774	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/ PUBLIC POLICY

b) A topics course in each field (i.e., 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 800) will generally be offered as a research seminar at least once each year.

c) Other 700 & 800 courses will be assumed to be proseminars unless otherwise indicated. However, a faculty member may request that a course in their area of specialization be offered as a research seminar for a given semester even if the course has been offered previously as a proseminar. The course would then be offered as a research seminar, with suitable publicity of its status, if approved for inclusion in the terms offerings by the scheduling committee.

d) Independent Studies credit may be taken as a research seminar if the study includes the production of a major original research paper and the independent study is approved by the graduate director for research seminar status.

e) A "Research Seminar" is generally understood to be a course which will have as a central focus the production of a major paper of original, independent research (e.g., such as a paper suitable for presentation at a professional convention or publication in a scholarly, peer reviewed journal in the field). "Proseminars" will not typically include a major paper requirement, but instead will provide a broad survey of the professional literature relevant to the topic of the course. Proseminars will often involve one or more examinations and/or short analytical papers.

### **Ph.D. Candidacy Exam**

In order for students to be admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy in Political Science they must pass a qualifying examination. The exam is normally taken shortly after the end of the spring semester in the student's first year.

### **Ph.D. Comprehensive Examinations**

Upon completion of course work, the student must take a Comprehensive Examination. The Comprehensive Examination shall consist of written examinations in the First Field and the Second Field, followed by an oral examination focused on your dissertation prospectus. These examinations shall be designed to evaluate the student's achievement of the following: the accumulation of scholarly knowledge; the acquisition of professional research skills; and the ability to communicate effectively in written and oral forms.

### **The Dissertation**

The final phase of the doctoral program is the development, writing, and defense of the Dissertation. The Ph.D. Dissertation is expected to represent a substantial contribution to knowledge within the broad area of political science. The Graduate Director, in consultation with each student, will appoint a Dissertation Committee and a chair of that committee. The committee will normally consist of five members, one of whom must be a member of the USC faculty from a different department or a faculty member at another university. The dissertation committee must be approved by the dean of the Graduate School. The student should consult closely with the Dissertation Committee, and especially with the chair of that committee, along all stages of the dissertation process. A completed Dissertation Proposal must be formally defended publicly before the Dissertation Committee and submitted to the Graduate Director. Upon successful completion of the Dissertation, the student must publicly defend it before a Dissertation Examination Committee.