

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Version 2012.02**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
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**[http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/political\\_science](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/political_science)**

## Table of Contents

I.	General Information about the Graduate Programs .....	3
A.	Degree Programs .....	3
B.	Fields of Study .....	3
II.	Admissions Information.....	4
A.	Required Information.....	4
B.	Timeline .....	5
C.	Applying for Departmental Financial Aid .....	5
D.	Qualifications .....	5
III.	PhD Degree Requirements.....	5
A.	Fields of Study .....	6
B.	Credit Requirements and Credit Distribution .....	6
C.	Required Courses by Field .....	7
D.	Research Practicum.....	7
E.	Comprehensive Exams.....	8
F.	Dissertation .....	9
IV.	Master's Degree Requirements .....	10
A.	Nature of thesis .....	10
B.	Nature of exams .....	10
C.	Nature of the Committee.....	10
V.	Advising .....	10
VI.	Departmental Assistantships .....	11
A.	Teaching Assistantships .....	11
B.	Research Assistantships .....	11
VII.	Conference Travel Support – before submitting a proposal to a conference.....	11
A.	Rules for Receiving Travel Support .....	12
B.	Process for Receiving Travel Support .....	12
VIII.	Summer Options .....	12
Appendix:	Current Graduate Courses.....	13
American Government and Politics .....	13	
Comparative Government and Politics .....	13	
International Relations .....	14	
Methodology .....	15	
Honors, Internships, Colloquia, and Individual Study.....	15	
Thesis and Dissertation.....	15	
Ph.D.	Guidelines Checklist – 54 Total Hours Required .....	16
M.A.	Guidelines Checklist – 30 Total Hours Required .....	17
Ph.D.	Advisor Selection Sheet .....	18

# I. General Information about the Graduate Programs

## **A. Degree Programs**

The Department of Political Science at the University of Mississippi offers two graduate degrees: the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and the Master of Arts (M.A.). The Ph.D. program is designed primarily for those students interested in obtaining faculty positions at academic institutions. As such, the program provides rigorous training in the practice of scholarly research. Students can expect to obtain a mastery of the relevant literature as well as the methodological tools needed to undertake sophisticated political science research. The small size of our graduate program also provides the opportunity for most students in the Ph.D. program to supplement their research training with classroom experience either as teaching assistants or, in the case of advanced Ph.D. students, as course instructors.

The Master of Arts degree serves students with many different goals. Some M.A. students choose to enter government positions while others seek employment in the private sector. Some M.A. students decide to pursue the Ph.D. degree. The goal of the M.A. program is to provide the analytical skills necessary for success in any of these goals. Because of this, the M.A. program is designed to impart the same mastery of the political science literature and the basic research tools as the Ph.D. students receive, just on a smaller scale.

## **B. Fields of Study**

The Department of Political Science offers concentrations in three subfields of political science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Every student must choose two of these fields and designate one as the major field and one as the minor field.

- American politics focuses on the behavioral and institutional elements of U.S. domestic politics. Faculty members in the former area examine voting behavior and turnout, as well as other forms of political participation. Scholars in the area of institutions focus on Congress, state politics, and the Presidency.
- Comparative politics examines the domestic politics of countries other than the United States. Thematic areas include social movements, comparative institutions, and democratization and development. Area foci are Western Europe, Latin America, and East Asia.
- International relations covers the politics between countries, including international interactions such as war and trade. The core of the departmental IR faculty lies in the causes of interstate conflict and cooperation.

Students must receive permission from the Graduate Program Coordinator to have a minor field in Political Methodology and this minor field may not replace a second substantive field. Rather, students electing to take a methods field will in essence have three fields: two substantive fields and a second minor in methodology. Students with a second minor in methods will be required to take at least 3 additional credits beyond the 9 required methods credits in the core methods sequence. The student will also be required to submit a third field portfolio to show competence in the methods field. The portfolio will contain syllabi from courses taken, exams and

assignments from methods courses, and papers written that utilize quantitative methods in the analysis. The portfolio will be distributed to two faculty members (most likely those who have taught in the methods sequence) for evaluation.

## II. Admissions Information

The Department of Political Science accepts applications for entry into the M.A. or the Ph.D. program. Applicants need not have an M.A. for admission into the Ph.D. program, nor must a student hold a degree in political science. The applications for both programs are the same in terms of procedure and deadlines.

### **A. Required Information**

An application for graduate work will be considered complete upon receipt of the following six items:

To the Graduate School:

- A completed application (applicants can go to <http://www.olemiss.edu/gradschool/applynow.html> to complete the online application)
- An official transcript from all institutions the applicant previously attended
- An official report of scores on the Graduate Records Examination
- Three letters of recommendation submitted online by your recommenders. It is important to have letters of recommendation from your undergraduate professors (or graduate professors if currently in an M.A. program). We hope to attract students who will do well in an academic political science program which prepares people to conduct original research and to teach at a college level if that is what they want to do. In general, the people who can best assess students' ability in that regard are their undergraduate professors (rather than military officers or employers or their hometown ministers, etc.). For those who work for a while after college before pursuing a graduate degree, an employer can be in a good position to assess a student's potential, and it is fine to have him/her/them write a letter. But try to get at least two and preferably three professors who can provide an assessment of your academic potential in Political Science. In general, however, do that best you can and do not let concerns about letters keep you from applying.

To the Department of Political Science:

- A writing sample. It should be a fairly long paper; do not worry about sending "too much." Preferably, it should be a paper written for a Political Science class which shows your research, analytical and/or quantitative skills to their best advantage.
- A two-page letter describing your interests in political science. The statement of purpose should describe your substantive interests in political science. For the Ph.D. you should state which field you would study as your major field and which field you would study as your minor field. For the M.A., please specify the major field you would study. Within those fields, be as specific as possible about your interests (for example, parties/elections within the field of American Politics). However, if you are not sure what you want to

focus on, just say so and apply anyway. Your statement should also say something about your career goals for which a graduate degree will prepare you.

Applicants from non-English speaking countries must also submit an official TOEFL score in addition to the GRE report. The minimum TOEFL score, as stated in the official graduate school catalog, is 550/213.

It is important to note that the Department will not be able to process an applicant's file until the Graduate School has received all three of its required items.

### ***B. Timeline***

Although there is no hard deadline for applications to the Department, applicants who wish to receive full consideration for graduate assistantships must have a completed application by February 15<sup>th</sup> in the year of matriculation.

Although it is technically possible, we only permit people to start in the spring in unusual circumstances. It is much better to enter in the fall. One reason for this is that we require a two-semester methods sequence, part one in the fall and part two in the spring. Students should not try to start the sequence midstream unless they have excellent background in research methods at the graduate level, and they also should not delay the methods sequence until their second year because it is a foundation for understanding other courses in the three substantive fields of political science. Our program places strong emphasis on quantitative methods in political science, i.e., the use of statistical methods to analyze quantitative data.

### ***C. Applying for Departmental Financial Aid***

No separate application exists for those applicants desiring departmental awards. All applicants are considered for assistantships based on the completed application for graduate work.

### ***D. Qualifications***

Decisions to admit or reject an applicant are made based on all the elements of the file. This includes GRE scores, GPA, and letters of recommendation. The department also places great weight on the personal statement. The small size of the department necessitates a strong fit between a particular applicant and the interests and expertise of the faculty.

The department does not have minimum requirements for the GRE. Successful applicants for the Ph.D. program generally average around 550 in the verbal and quantitative components of the exam, while M.A. applicant scores are slightly lower. Students applying for the graduate program should also have at least a 3.0 GPA overall and a higher GPA in their majors.

## **III. PhD Degree Requirements**

The Political Science Ph.D. Program is a four-year program designed to provide scholarly and professional training in political science. Students must choose fields of study and complete the program requirements as described below.

## **A. Fields of Study**

Ph.D. students are required to choose *two* fields for examination from the following list:

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations

Students are required to establish a major and minor field of study. The major field requires a student to complete at least 5 courses consisting of the field pro-seminar and 4 research seminars. The minor field requires a student to complete at least 4 courses, consisting of the field pro-seminar and 3 research seminars.

## **B. Credit Requirements and Credit Distribution**

Students must complete 54 hours (a graduate school requirement) before obtaining ABD (all-but-dissertation) status. Below is a table that shows the credit distribution before and after the graduate program reforms enacted in August, 2007:

	<b>Credit Requirement</b>
<b>Major field</b>	15
<b>Minor field</b>	12
<b>Methods</b>	6
<b>Research Practicum</b>	3
<b>Third Field/Electives</b>	6
<b>Exam Prep/Exams/Prospectus</b>	12
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>54</b>

The proposed curriculum changes do not alter the overall degree requirement of 54 hours. Typical students will continue to take 9 hours in each of their first five semesters (45 credits). In the 6<sup>th</sup> semester, students complete comprehensive exams and a dissertation prospectus by taking 3 credits of comp prep credits and 6 credits of prospectus research. These prospectus research credits are directly tied to producing a dissertation proposal and are to be completed by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester (see below).

Below is a year-to-year plan that shows a typical program of study for an entering student under the proposed curriculum plan:

### **Year 1**

Fall - POL 551, Seminar Major-1, Seminar Minor-1

Spring – POL 552, Seminar Major-2, Seminar Minor-2

### **Year 2**

Fall – Seminar Major-3, Seminar Minor-3, Seminar Third Field/Elective-1

Spring – Seminar Major-4, Seminar Minor-4, POL 695 (Research Practicum)

### **Year 3**

Fall – Seminar Major-5, Seminar Third Field/Elective-2, POL 696 - Advanced Readings (3 hours – used for comprehensive examination preparation)

Spring – POL 696 (3 hours); Comprehensive Exams, Prospectus - POL 796 (6 hours)

#### **Year 4**

Fall – POL 797 (dissertation hours - 9)

Spring – POL 797 (dissertation hours - 9)

### ***C. Required Courses by Field***

Students must complete 6 hours (two courses) of methods and complete the core pro-seminar in the selected subfields. The pro-seminars and required methods courses are:

#### American Politics

POL 500 Seminar in American Politics (pro-seminar)

#### Comparative Politics

POL 523 Concepts and Theories of Comparative Political Analysis (pro-seminar)

#### International Politics

POL 531 Seminar in International Relations (pro-seminar)

#### Methods

POL 551 Empirical Political Analysis

POL 652 Applied Political Research (POL 552).

Additionally, students must complete 3-4 research seminars in each of their chosen fields. A research seminar involves an in-depth academic study in one subfield area within a student's field. The research seminar has as its principal graded assignment a paper designing or reporting original research. Finally, a student must complete a 2<sup>nd</sup> year research practicum as described below.

### ***D. Research Practicum***

Students will be required to complete a research practicum by the end of the second year. A research practicum is a significant, independent, and original effort to apply social science research methods guided by a POL faculty advisor. The POL faculty advisor is to approve the design and oversee the implementation of the student's research project. The practicum is to culminate in a journal-length, research paper potentially acceptable for presentation at an academic conference.

The objective of the research practicum is to work with a faculty member in a project applying research methods training. The goal is for the student to produce a paper that is at least suitable for a conference presentation but which could be revised for journal publication. In instances when the advisor believes this goal has been achieved, the student and advisor may wish to present the paper and submit it for journal review. A student may choose to complete a third

year research practicum facilitating development of a dissertation topic. Alternatively, the student may take another elective seminar.

Students may identify their practicum advisor and begin the research design during the spring and summer before the fall semester when credit is designated. A faculty member may not be an advisor to more than two students in any academic year. Upon completion of the practicum requirement, the faculty member will be paid \$300 into a professional overhead account.

## ***E. Comprehensive Exams***

### **1. Timing of Comprehensive Exams**

Written exams will be offered in January each year. The exact dates will be set by the Graduate Committee. Unless waived by unanimous vote of the examining field committee, an oral exam will occur within 2-3 weeks of the written exams. With permission of the Graduate Committee, a student may retake exams once; however, a second comprehensive exam will not necessarily be offered in the same academic semester.

### **2. Nature of Written Exams**

Each student takes two written field exams. Written exams will be take home, open note/book exams. Students have 72 hours to complete the major field exam and 48 hours to complete the minor field exam. The two exams will take place over two consecutive weekends. Typically the major field exam will be distributed by the department secretary on Friday at 9 am and returned on Monday, 9 am. The minor field exam will be distributed at 9 am on the following Friday and returned Sunday at 9 am.

### **3. Nature of Oral Exams**

The purpose of the oral examination will be to address weaknesses in the written exams. Unless waived by unanimous vote of the examining field committee, an oral exam will occur within 2-3 weeks of the written exams.

### **4. Composition of Exam Committee**

The Chair of the Department will assign three faculty members to solicit questions and write the exam, as well as grade the answers and conduct the orals. These faculty members may or may not be the same as the student's dissertation committee members.

With only 2-3 weeks between written and oral exams, faculty members will be required to read and grade exams in a timely manner.

### **5. Reading Lists**

Each of the subfields will generate a list of important readings that will (in addition to seminar syllabi) define the extant literature for examination. The list should discern between those pieces necessary for first field and second field students (in other words, a subset of the reading list should be required for second field examinations).



## ***F. Dissertation***

The dissertation is the culminating intellectual outcome of a student's doctoral program. The dissertation must demonstrate the students' ability to engage in independent, original, and professionally competent academic research.

### **1. Dissertation Prospectus**

Students should enroll in 6 hours of POL 796 – Dissertation Prospectus – in the Spring of the third year (the semester corresponding with completion of comprehensive exam). Students are required to complete and defend the dissertation prospectus no later than the end of the summer before the fourth year.

### **2. Prospectus Defense**

A completed dissertation prospectus must be a written document discussing the research question, theory, research design, chapter organization, and timetable for completion. The dissertation chair may establish additional expectations. The prospectus must be approved by the dissertation chair and dissertation committee members in an oral defense. Students not defending a dissertation prospectus by the start of the fourth year may not be eligible to teach for departmental stipend support and may not receive stipend support depending on graduate stipend resources.

### **3. Dissertation Committee**

The student is responsible for asking POL tenure-track faculty member appropriate for the topic of the student's chosen research area. This selection should occur at or before the comprehensive exam stage of a student's graduate career so that dissertation planning can begin as early as possible. The student is responsible for completing the "Dissertation Committee Form" notifying the Graduate Program Coordinator of the committee composition. The student should consult with the Dissertation Chair to select an appropriate outside faculty Committee member. It is assumed that faculty members have a professional obligation to serve on a dissertation committee, if asked. However, a faculty member may decline if they already serve on two or more dissertation committees in any academic year.

### **4. Continuing Hours**

Students must enroll in at least three hours of POL 797 each semester during their dissertation-writing. Additional requirements concerning continuing hours are stated under "General Academic Regulations and Other Information" in the Graduate Catalog of the University of Mississippi, accessible at <http://www.olemiss.edu/gradschool/current.html>.

### **5. Dissertation Defense**

A student is expected to submit a completed draft of a dissertation to all Committee members. Committee members are professionally obligated to read drafts in a timely manner. An oral defense of the final dissertation must be scheduled by the Dissertation Chair and must be successfully completed. The student and Dissertation Chair must communicate with the Graduate Program Coordinator in advance of the Oral Defense to complete necessary Graduate School documents. Students may not "walk" (participate in graduation ceremonies) until at least

a draft of a dissertation has been written and received preliminary approval by the dissertation chair before the Graduate School deadline for graduation participation.

## IV. Master's Degree Requirements

The M.A. degree requires a minimum of 30 graduate level credit hours. Each student is required to take 12 credit hours in the major field and 6 credits in other fields, which may constitute a minor field if taken from the same field. M.A. students are required to take two of the three methods core courses (POL 550, POL 551).

	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	30	
<b>Major Field</b>	12	Pro-seminar
<b>Minor Field/Electives</b>	6	
<b>Methods</b>	6	POL 550, 551
<b>Thesis/Exam</b>	6	

The Department has been reviewing POL 550 and has waived the requirement since 2007. Upon completion of coursework, M.A. students choose either to write a Master's thesis or take the M.A. level written examination.

### ***A. Nature of thesis***

Students selecting the thesis route will write and submit a 30-50 page professional research paper equivalent to a paper worthy of presentation at a major political science conference and defend the work in an oral defense at the end of the semester in which the thesis is written.

### ***B. Nature of exams***

M.A. examinations are take-home and students have 48 hours to complete the major field exam. The student will then have an oral defense of the written work if necessary.

### ***C. Nature of the Committee***

For either the thesis option or the exam option, the student is responsible for selecting a committee. M.A. committees are comprised of (at least) three faculty members: an advisor from the student's major field as well as (at least) two other faculty members (1 from the major field and 1 from the minor field).

## V. Advising

Upon entry into the program, every student will be advised by the Graduate Program Coordinator. At any point in a student's tenure in the department a student may choose one faculty member to take over as the primary advisor. M.A. students must choose a faculty advisor prior to the exam or thesis. Ph.D. students must choose a primary advisor no later than the beginning of the semester prior to comprehensive exams.

## VI. Departmental Assistantships

The Department of Political Science offers a limited number of full and half-time departmental assistantships. Ph.D. students are given priority for assistantship support. A full department assistantship includes a stipend of \$10000.00 for the nine month academic year, mandatory participation in the graduate student health insurance program, as well as a tuition waiver (including the out-of-state fees, if necessary). A half-time assistantship includes a \$5000.00 stipend, mandatory participation in the graduate student health program, and a 75 percent tuition benefit.

Other sources of funding are available at times, including positions in the Social Science Research Laboratory or positions from external grants awarded to faculty members. In these cases, students will be selected by the appropriate faculty members and notified by the department.

An important thing to note is that funding is not guaranteed for every student, every year. A student who received funding in one year can expect to have it again the following year assuming normal progress has been made toward completion of the degree and the responsibilities of the assistantship were handled adequately. Ph.D. students who meet these expectations can receive stipend money for at least four years (through one year of dissertation writing). M.A. students will receive two years of funding. The department carries out reviews of students by the relevant faculty members (e.g. those who taught graduate seminars and those who had research assistants).

### ***A. Teaching Assistantships***

Students awarded graduate assistantships can be used in the classroom in many ways. Some faculty members will utilize a student as a teaching assistant in small discussion sections that accompany a larger lecture. Alternatively, faculty members may ask a graduate assistant to work as a grader in a 300 level course. A final option is to give senior graduate students an opportunity to teach their own courses.

### ***B. Research Assistantships***

Students assigned to be research assistants are asked to aid professors in many different aspects of the research process. For example, students may collect data or gather relevant cites of the extant literature that are necessary for completion of a project. Sometimes these assignments lead to opportunities for co-authoring on papers for conferences and publication.

## VII. Conference Travel Support – before submitting a proposal to a conference

Academic conferences allow graduate students the opportunity to present independent research to members of the academy who have similar research interests. In order to help facilitate conference participation, the department has limited support up to \$550.00 with an additional \$200 from the UM Graduate School for a total \$750 per trip. These funds are to offset the expenses accrued through travel, registration, and daily necessities such as food.

Students wishing to attend a conference should become familiar with the deadlines for submitting conference paper proposals, as the deadlines are often 10-12 months in advance of the actual conference.

### ***A. Rules for Receiving Travel Support***

- Department support would be awarded no more than once per year to any one graduate student when total funds are limited.
- Graduate student applicants for travel support must present research at the conference/meeting when total funds are limited.
- To maximize the available funds preference will be given to proposals that include room or ride sharing and applicants who also apply to the Graduate School for Travel funds (\$200).
- Seniority in the program will be used to determine award. First year students do not qualify for department funding.
- Department awards will not exceed \$550 per student and will be limited to available funds. Proposals for departmental award must be submitted at the time of the conference proposal.

### ***B. Process for Receiving Travel Support***

Those eligible to receive travel support should follow the following process

- Propose an abstract of the paper and a brief budget breakdown for approval by the Graduate Program Coordinator prior to the conference proposal submission.
- If the proposal is approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator, the student must complete a Graduate Student Travel Support Application from the Graduate School.
- The student receiving support must complete the standard University travel authorization with the department. Graduate student travel support is limited by the availability of funds.

## **VIII. Summer Options**

The department rarely offers formal graduate seminars in the summer terms. However, several options do exist for students, including

- Teaching summer courses (with compensation)
- Taking additional methods courses at summer programs such as the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan
- Attending other methodologically oriented programs such as the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models

## Appendix: Current Graduate Courses

### ***American Government and Politics***

**600. SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS.** An orientation to the major literature on American politics that introduces students to the major conceptual and theoretical issues in the field. (3).

**601. SEMINAR IN JUDICIAL BEHAVIOR.** An analysis of judicial decision making, its influences and impact, in trial and appellate courts in state and federal systems. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. (3).

**602. SEMINAR IN JUDICIAL POLITICS.** Problems in constitutional law; theories of judicial activism versus restraint; legal and political philosophies of Supreme Court justices; methods of judicial rationalization; judicial elitism. (3).

**603. SEMINAR IN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE POLITICS.** An examination of the academic literature on the U.S. Congress, focusing on classic studies and advanced methods, with an emphasis on preparing students for original research in the field. Prerequisite: POL 651 or 653 or consent of instructor. (3).

**604. SEMINAR IN EXECUTIVE POLITICS.** Examination of the presidency and other chief executive offices analyzing functions, powers, and relations with other political institutions; both historical and comparative analysis. (3).

**606. SEMINAR IN MEDIA POLITICS.** An examination of the role and function of the media in American national politics, the theories used to explain that role, and the methodologies used to test those theories. Prerequisite: POL 651 or 653 or consent of instructor. (3).

**609. SEMINAR IN SOUTHERN POLITICS.** Analysis of Southern politics that focuses on the region's unique political history, its transformation during the 20th century, and its importance to national politics. (3).

**612. SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES.** An examination of issues related to the study of political parties, especially as linkage institutions between citizens and elites. (3).

**613. SEMINAR IN STATE POLITICS AND POLICY.** An examination of issues related to the study of state politics and policy in the United States with a focus on the study of states as laboratories for public policy and for the empirical examination of political institutions and behavior. (3).

**614. SEMINAR IN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND VOTING.** An examination of the determinants of mass political behavior. Primary focus on the act of voting and forces shaping the vote decision. (3).

**615. SEMINAR IN PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY.** An examination of the key concepts and literature in the broad and multidisciplinary field of public opinion. (3).

### ***Comparative Government and Politics***

**620. SEMINAR IN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES.** Major theories and issues concerning politics in advanced industrial societies, including Western Europe, Japan, Australia, the U.S., and Canada. (3).

**621. SEMINAR IN EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT.** Theories and problems in European comparative government. (3).

- 622. SEMINAR IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE.** Intensive examination of the provocative concepts and theories in the area of political development and change. (3).
- 623. CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ANALYSIS.** Examination of the major empirical concepts of comparative politics and their use in theory construction for the analysis of politics within societies. (3).
- 624. SEMINAR IN ASIAN GOVERNMENT.** Theories and problems specific to Asian societies and politics. (3).
- 625. REFORM AND CHANGE IN [POST] COMMUNIST POLITICAL SYSTEMS.** This course examines the theoretical foundations of Communist systems both as political entities and as a subfield in Comparative Politics. (3).
- 626. COMPARATIVE BUREAUCRACIES.** A comparative look at state structures and relationships, focusing on the policy process and bureaucracy. Prerequisite: POL 623. (3).
- 627. COMPARATIVE LEGISLATURES .** Comparative study of some of the important structures, functions, and processes of legislatures and legislative-like institutions in both Western and non-Western societies. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. (3).
- 628. SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE PARTIES AND ELECTIONS.** An examination of political parties, party systems, and elections worldwide. (3).
- 641. SEMINAR IN LATIN AMERICAN COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT.** Theories and issues concerning politics and government with specific focus on Latin America. (3).
- 642. QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS.** Theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of comparative politics in an applied setting using quantitative methodologies. (3).

### ***International Relations***

- 631. SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.** Theories and problems in international relations.(3).
- 632. QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.** Mathematical techniques currently applied to the study of international politics. Statistical and game-theoretic models will be explored, with special emphasis on quantitative cross-national foreign policy analysis. (3).
- 633. GLOBAL STRATEGY AND ALLIANCES.** Examination of block behavior and alliances in international politics. (3).
- 634. FORMULATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.** The mechanisms and institutions involved in foreign policy formulation, including the impact and interaction of both governmental and nongovernmental groups. Covers the various modes of influence utilized in foreign policy and the current behavioral literature relevant to the policy-making process. (3).
- 635. INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT IN THE NUCLEAR AGE.** Analysis of constraints and options regarding the use of military force in the nuclear era. Subjects include possible forms of nuclear and limited war, escalation models, and coercive bargaining techniques. (3).
- 636. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY LAW AND POLICY.** This course explores the complexities of the international law of conflict management and the legal structure for resolving international disputes. (Same as LAW 658). (3).
- 637. SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY.** An introduction to the major theoretical, historical, and current policy issues in international political economy, including the politics of international trade, monetary, and investment relations. (3).

## ***Methodology***

**650. RESEARCH IN POLITICS.** Introduction to the philosophy and practice of research in political science. (3).

**651. EMPIRICAL POLITICAL ANALYSIS.** Introduction to elements of probability, statistics, and bivariate regression in political science. (3).

**652. APPLIED POLITICAL RESEARCH.** Hypothesis testing and inference using the general linear model. (3).

**653. ADVANCED TOPICS IN POLITICAL METHODOLOGY.** Advanced topics in political methodology, such as systems of equations, time series analysis, and limited dependent variables. (3).

**654. FORMAL MODELS OF POLITICS.** An introduction to formal models of politics, including topics such as individual rationality and introductory game theory, collective choice theory, spatial models, voting games and coalitional rationality. (3).

## ***Honors, Internships, Colloquia, and Individual Study***

**598. SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Study of specialized topics in the discipline. May be repeated once for credit. (3).

**691. SEMINAR IN TEACHING.** Description of pedagogy of Political Science. The first part of the course deals with philosophical issues, goals, and approaches. The second part focuses on mechanics of good teaching. (1). (Z grade).

**696. ADVANCED READINGS.** Self-directed readings for senior graduate students. (3).

**698. SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Study of specialized topics in the discipline. May be repeated for credit. (3).

**699. READINGS AND RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Independent research . Prerequisite: Instructor's permission. May be repeated once for credit. (3).

## ***Thesis and Dissertation***

**697. THESIS.** (1-12).

**797. DISSERTATION.** (1-18).

**University of Mississippi  
Department of Political Science  
Ph.D. Guidelines Checklist – 54 Total Hours Required**

**Major Field:** \_\_\_\_\_ (15 Credits, including the field pro-seminar):

Course Number and Name	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade

**Minor Field:** \_\_\_\_\_ (12 Credits, including the field pro-seminar):

Course Number and Name	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade

**Methods: (6 Credits)**

Course Number	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade
POL 551				
POL 652				

**Research Practicum: (3 Credits)**

Course Number	Year	Semester	Director Name	Practicum Title
POL 695				

**Electives: 6 Credits**

Course Number and Name	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade

**Exam/Prospectus/Dissertation: (12 Credits of Exam/Prospectus and 18 Credits of Dissertation Research)**

Course Number	Year	Semester	Year	Semester	Year	Semester	Year	Semester
POL 696 (6 credits)								
POL 796 (6 credits)								
POL 797(18 credits)								



**University of Mississippi  
Department of Political Science  
M.A. Guidelines Checklist – 30 Total Hours Required**

**Major Field:** \_\_\_\_\_ (12 Credits, including the pro-seminar)

Course Number and Name	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade

**Minor Field or Electives:** \_\_\_\_\_ (6 Credits)

Course Number and Name	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade

**Methods: (6 Credits)**

Course Number	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Grade
POL 650				
POL 651				

**Thesis/Master's Exam: (6 credits)**

Course Number	Year	Semester	Credit Hours	Year	Semester	Credit Hours
POL 697						

**University of Mississippi**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Ph.D. Advisor Selection Sheet**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The role of the advisor is to provide guidance in course selection and to ensure adequate progress is made towards the completion of degree. The advisor is also designated as the chair of the dissertation committee.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Signature