

Masters of Political Science Handbook



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Texas State University
Department of Political Science
355 Undergraduate Academic Center

Elizabeth Graham Summer 2014

Acknowledgement of Receipt of the MA Political Science Handbook

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	YES	NO
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO
DEGREE OUTLINES	YES	NO
REGISTRATION AND COURSE CREDIT	YES	NO
GRADING AND ACADEMIC POLICIES	YES	NO
MINOR REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO
THESIS TRACK REQUIRMENTS	YES	NO
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STATEMENT OF NO APEEAL	YES	NO
ACADEMIC HONESTY AGREEMENT	YES	NO
COMP EXAM COMMITTEE FORM	YES	NO
OUTCOMES ASSESMENT	YES	NO

I have received a copy of the MA Handbook with all its contents and agree to all of the policies.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

This must be returned to the Political Science Department by 5:00pm on the 12th day of classes.

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Political Science Department at Texas State University offers a Master of Arts degree. The MA degree consists of 27 hours of political science course work (9 of which can be course work in a field related to political science) and 6 hours of thesis. The Graduate Director must approve courses taken in a field related to political science. There is also a non-thesis option.

Students in the non-thesis option are required to take 36 hours of political science course work (9 of which can be course work in a field related to political science). The Graduate Director must approve courses taken in a field related to political science.

The MA thesis option requires that the student pass an oral defense of their thesis during their final semester. MA students choosing the non-thesis option are required to pass a written comprehensive exit examination (comp exam). This comp exam consists of a review of coursework completed in the major and will cover the substantive fields of political science. Members of both thesis and comp exam committees are drawn from the major. In rare circumstances, the Graduate Director may allow a member of a committee to be from a related discipline.

Each student must work with the Graduate Director in determining the composition of his/her thesis and comp exam committees. The Graduate Director must approve all such committees. Students must be enrolled in the semester within which they plan to graduate as per the Graduate College rules.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Regular Admission:

Students with an undergraduate degree in political science, or undergraduate minor in political science, or a minimum of 9 advanced hours in political science or related area are eligible for regular admission.

- Students with grade point averages of 3.0 or better on the last 60 hours of undergraduate or post baccalaureate coursework may be admitted without a Graduate Record Exam.
- Students with a 2.8 - 2.9 GPA on the last 60 hours of their undergraduate or post baccalaureate work must take the GRE exam and have scored a minimum of 150 on the Verbal portion & 142 on the Quantitative portion or better and have a minimum score of 4 on Analytical Writing section before they may be considered for regular admission.

Conditional Admission:

Conditional admission to the graduate MA program is available for the following students:

1) Students without an undergraduate degree in political science or undergraduate minor in political science, or a minimum of nine (9) advanced hours in political science or related field, are only eligible for conditional admission and will be required to take leveling courses prior to enrolling in graduate political science courses.

Such students may be admitted conditionally with a GRE minimum score of 150 on the Verbal portion & 142 on the Quantitative portion and with a minimum 3 on the Analytical Writing portion of the GRE. Applications for conditional admission are reviewed by the Graduate Director in consultation with the MA faculty.

2) Students with a 2.75-2.79 grade point average on the last 60 hours of undergraduate courses before the bachelor's degree, plus any graduate coursework if taken, and an undergraduate degree in political science or an undergraduate minor in political science, or a minimum of nine (9) advanced hours in political science or a related field, may be admitted conditionally with a GRE minimum score of 150 on the Verbal portion & 142 on the Quantitative portion and with a minimum 3 on the Analytical Writing portion of the GRE.

Applications for conditional admission are reviewed by the Graduate Director in consultation with the MA faculty. In order to apply for conditional admission, a student must submit: 3 letters of recommendation, a writing sample (minimum five double-spaced typed pages) in a political science course or social science/humanities course and must complete an interview with the graduate program director. If a writing sample is not available, the student will provide a typed personal statement of no less than 500 words.

Any student considered for conditional admission, whether the minimum grade-point average admission requirement identified in the "Admission Requirements" section of this handbook is met or not, must have a GRE score on file before the application file can be reviewed for admission to the Master of Arts degree program.

All admission materials must be filed with the Office of the Graduate College. Applications should not be sent to the Political Science Department.

An application for admission to the Graduate College by prospective students must be done online through the Apply Texas Application. An Apply Texas Application link can be found on the Graduate College website or on the Apply Texas website. This application is not the same as the application that undergraduate students complete.

Early Admission:

If a student is a senior at Texas State, has a superior academic record and lacks 12 or fewer semester hours toward graduation, the student may apply to register during the final semester of undergraduate study for courses to be applied to the student's prospective master's degree.

Master's Degree Time Limit:

A program leading to a master's degree must be completed within six years from the date of a student's initial enrollment in graduate courses used toward the degree. This time limit applies to credit hours earned at Texas State as well as credit transferred to Texas State from other accredited institutions. Requests for an extension must be submitted to the Graduate Director, who in turn submits a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate College.

DEGREE OUTLINES

On the admission application, a student must choose the following tracks: Thesis Track or Non-Thesis Track. Once the student has been admitted into the MA in Political Science program, the Graduate College issues a degree outline. [Students that have chosen the thesis track must pick up the Thesis Track Packet, which further defines eligibility, from the Graduate Director.](#)

The student following the thesis option must take nine courses to satisfy the major hour requirements and complete six hours of thesis for a total of 33 hours. Students following the non-thesis option must take twelve courses (36 hours). Coursework may be drawn from the following:

- POSI 5300 Ancient Medieval Political Philosophy
- POSI 5301 Problems in American Foreign Relations
- POSI 5302 Modern and Contemporary Political Philosophy
- POSI 5303 Political Research and Methodology
- POSI 5319 Seminar in Constitutional Theory
- POSI 5325 Roots of American Constitutionalism
- POSI 5326 Topics in Democratic Theory
- POSI 5327 Topics in State and Local Government

- POSI 5327A Texas Politics and Administration
- POSI 5337 Social Contract Theory
- POSI 5338 Problems of Power and Crisis of Modernity
- POSI 5339 Contemporary Perspective in Modern Liberalism
- POSI 5344 American Culture and Media
- POSI 5352 Religion and American Public Life
- POSI 5353 Crisis of Liberalism and Effects of Democracy
- POSI 5354 Justice and Liberalism in American Thought
- POSI 5360 Problems in International Politics
- POSI 5364 Problems in International Organization
- POSI 5365 Problems in International Law
- POSI 5370 Internship in Government
- POSI 5380 Seminar in International Political Economy
- POSI 5382 Seminar in International Relations Theory
- POSI 5384 Topics in Modern Democratic Systems
- POSI 5385 Topics in Third World Politics
- POSI 5398 Independent Study
- POSI 5399A Thesis
- POSI 5399B Thesis
- POSI 5199B Thesis
- POSI 7330 Environmental Policy, Politics and Law

Please note that all three graduate level programs housed in the Political Science Department employ the same prefix, POSI, Only those courses listed above apply to the MA Political Science program.

Students who are considering a Ph.D. should enroll in a statistical methodology course, POSI 5303, during their MA program.

Students who wish to take courses other than those listed above must have prior approval of the Graduate Director. It is recommended that graduate students contact the Graduate Director at least once every semester to discuss their program of study. Changes to a student's degree outline must be submitted by the Graduate Director to the Graduate College.

The student should request an updated degree outline the semester before he or she plans to graduate to make sure course work requirements have been met.

Leveling Courses:

Students without an undergraduate degree in political science or undergraduate minor in political science, or a minimum of nine (9) advanced hours in political science or related field, are only eligible for conditional admission and will be required to take leveling courses prior to enrolling in graduate political science courses.

Once a student has been accepted, the Graduate Director reviews the student's transcripts and determines how many leveling courses are needed. Students who are lacking in advanced political science undergraduate or post graduate hours may be required to complete up to 15 hours of undergraduate hours before beginning to take graduate political science courses.

The requirements will be listed on the student's degree outline, which is processed and distributed by the Graduate College after the Graduate Director approves the requirements for the major. Political science background courses must be chosen in consultation with the graduate director. A grade of "B" or better must be earned on all background courses.

Leveling work is not computed for the graduation GPA requirement, nor is graduate-degree credit granted for background work for the degree to be earned.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE CREDIT

Registration:

The office of the Graduate College will notify applicants officially by mail regarding admission. Since applications are for specific semesters, an applicant should notify the Office of the Graduate College as soon as possible if he or she will not be enrolling in the semester for which the applicant was accepted.

Registration in the Graduate College beyond the first semester depends on satisfactory progress in fulfilling any admission conditions that may have been imposed and maintaining satisfactory academic progress.

Course Load:

At the graduate level, the full-time course load during a long semester is 9 or more semester hours; $\frac{3}{4}$ time is 7-8 hours, $\frac{1}{2}$ time is 5-6 hours and the maximum load is 15 hours. The full-time course load during each summer session is 5 graduate-level hours; the maximum load is 6 hours. Course loads exceeding the maximum hour loads require written approval of the Dean of the Graduate College. This request must be submitted by the graduate director.

Internships:

MA students may enroll in an internship course (POSI 5370) if they are interning or are employed by a unit of federal, state, regional, or local government. The student must secure a position himself or herself. Neither the Political Science Department nor the Graduate Director places students in internship positions. The Graduate Director will make available information about any positions that are brought to the Department's attention. Students who work 20 hours per week for at least 14 weeks may receive 3 credit hours.

The Graduate Director will provide students with a syllabus listing the requirements for the internship. The Graduate Director will be the instructor of record for all students enrolled in the internship course. Visit the [MA Student Webpage](http://manow.wp.txstate.edu/) (<http://manow.wp.txstate.edu/>) for help with finding an internship.

Course Duplication:

POSI 5360, 5384 and 5385 may be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit. POSI 5350 may be repeated five times with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

Directed Reading:

Students, with permission from the Graduate Director, may take up to two directed reading courses (POSI 5398). These courses must be taken with two different professors and with differing emphasis. Students may only enroll in directed readings with professors with whom they have taken an MA course. Directed readings courses are to provide the student with advanced studies beyond the scope of in class coursework. POSI 5398 may not be taken in the first semester of coursework. [A directed reading course is required for thesis students.](#)

Post-Graduate Credit:

Up to 6 hours of graduate-level courses taken as a post-graduate certification, non-degree, or certificate student with a grade of “B” or better may be permitted for degree credit, after a student is granted regular degree-seeking admission. Such credit requires approval of the Dean of the Graduate College.

Transfer Credit:

A maximum of 6 semester hours of credit earned at another institution may be accepted as transfer credit and applied toward the master’s degree provided that:

1. The credit was earned in graduate courses completed in residence at an accredited institution.
2. Courses have not been, and will not be, used for credit on another degree.
3. Transfer work will be accepted only if it bears a letter grade of “B” or higher, or a numerical equivalent.
4. The credits were earned prior to the student’s admission to the Graduate College and the credits were earned while the student was enrolled under a graduate degree program at that institution. The student must provide the Graduate College with written verification of his/her status at that University.
5. Official transcripts showing the course work to be transferred must be on file in the Graduate College.
6. Students will be asked to provide a catalog with course descriptions for any transferred work. The Graduate Director may request a course syllabus for any transferred work.
7. Students admitted on “Conditional Admission” or students on “Probation/Suspension” will not receive credit for transfer work taken under the aforementioned status.

See the Graduate Catalog for a full description of requirements, especially those students who wish to take courses at another institution after having been admitted to the MA Political Science program at Texas State.

Undergraduate courses taken to fulfill background requirements will be accepted only if such courses are of the same level as those specified on the official degree outline and if they bear a letter grade of “B” or higher.

GRADING AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

Probation and Suspension:

If a student’s cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 during any semester of enrollment at Texas State, the student will be placed on academic probation. In the next semester of enrollment, the student must raise his or her cumulative Graduate College GPA to 3.0 or above or be suspended from the Graduate College. When the student has achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester of probation, the student will be notified that he or she has been removed from probation status.

If a student fails to raise his or her cumulative GPA to 3.0, he or she will be placed on suspension. After being on suspension status for six months, a student may petition the Graduate Director and the Dean of the Graduate College for permission to reenroll in the Graduate College. Each readmission decision is made on an individual basis. If a student is readmitted after being suspended, the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA in each semester of enrollment or be suspended again. The Graduate Director may also impose additional cumulative GPA restrictions for political science students.

Incomplete Grades:

The incomplete, or “I” grade, may be assigned when, due to unusual circumstances beyond the student’s control, a significant portion of a course, such as a term paper or final examination, has not been completed. An “I” grade from Texas State will not count as hours attempted until another grade is substituted for the “I.” If the “I” grade has not been removed in twelve months’ time, the grade will automatically change to “I-F.”

Political science MA students who have an incomplete will be given one semester to complete the course work. If the student does not complete the course work by the end of that semester the Graduate Director will place an administrative hold on the student. For example, a student receiving an “I” in fall 2012 will have until the end of spring 2013 to complete the course work. The administrative hold will result in the student being unable to register for courses until the incomplete grade is replaced. MA students who have two incompletes will not be allowed to register for additional courses nor will students be allowed to proceed in any aspect of the program until the “I’s” are completed.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Minor in Political Science:

The Political Science Department offers MA students a minor consisting of 9 hours. The hours may be taken from any of the designated MA courses (excluding 5398, 5399A, 5399B and 5199B) since these courses encompass a broad range of topics in graduate political science.

Students must contact the Political Science Department Graduate Director to learn the requirements for its minor. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire all information on minor requirements and to act in accordance with those requirements. The Graduate Director may require additional background courses to be taken at the undergraduate level if insufficient work in the minor field is reflected on the undergraduate transcript. Political science majors do not have a minor.

THESIS TRACK REQUIREMENTS

Overview:

The thesis may be based on research initially done in fulfillment of course requirements or on a completely new subject. The thesis represents a major research effort. It should range between 75-100 pages, comprehensively review the scholarly literature on the subject treated, and be consistent with a thesis format. The student should begin thinking about potential thesis topics as soon as possible. Students must schedule a meeting with the Graduate Director in their first semester to discuss their interest and which faculty member has an expertise in that area, so the student may choose coursework appropriately and subsequently be paired with him or her in the Directed Reading (POSI 5398).

While enrolled in the Directed Reading students will generate a thesis proposal that must be approved by the Graduate Faculty Writing Supervisor (GFWS) and a review panel. If the proposal is accepted, students will then enroll in Thesis A (POSI 5399A).

In Thesis A, students will produce a full draft of their thesis. Students will then enroll in Thesis B (POSI 56399B) where they will, in consultation with their thesis committee, revise their draft. Students can enroll in Thesis B more than once to finish the thesis, but will receive 3 hours of course credit only after the thesis is completed and approved.

Students must successfully complete an oral defense of their thesis. Students who fail the oral defense of their thesis will have the choice of the non-thesis option.

Students must also submit their thesis to the Graduate College for approval. After approval, the thesis is to be sent to the Alkek Library for binding.

Semester 1	Must meet with the Graduate Director to discuss thesis ideas, coursework, and identify faculty members with an expertise in the students interest
Semester 2	Enroll in Directed Readings course (POSI 5398) with an MA faculty member with whom they have taken a course and has an expertise in the student's area of interest, prepare a thesis proposal, submit proposal and revise proposal for approval to move forward on the thesis track
Semester 3	Enroll in Thesis A (POSI 5399A), begin researching and writing, submit thesis draft
Semester 4	Enroll in Thesis B (POSI 5399B), revise and edit thesis draft, submit completed thesis to committee chair, defend thesis, send thesis for approval by the Graduate College, have thesis bound

Students that have chosen the Thesis Track must pick up the Thesis Track Packet, which further defines eligibility, from the Graduate Director.

NON-THESIS TRACK REQUIREMENTS

Students who choose the non-thesis option are required to take 36 hours in the MA Program and are required to pass a written examination covering the fields of political science. The student, in consultation with the Graduate Director, is responsible for composing his or her exam committee. These committees are generally composed of three faculty in political science. The third member may be from outside political science if the student has taken approved courses with that faculty member and has Graduate Director approval. Students will prepare a committee form (found on the [Political Science Department website](#)) for the approval of program director. Each member will provide the student with three topics to prepare.

Professors will select one or two of the topics that they provided for the student's comp exam. The students will be given a two hour writing period per topic(s) prepared by each faculty member for a total of six hours. The exit exam will be given in one day.

In the fall semester, students will receive their topics two weeks in advance of the first Friday of November. In the spring semester, students will receive their topics two weeks in advance of the first Friday of April. The exam date for the fall semester will be the first Friday of November

and for the spring semester the first Friday of April. Students will be required to type their responses in a computer lab arranged by the program director and the computer lab coordinator.

The faculty member who provided the topic(s) will read the response(s) and determine whether the student passes his/her portion of the exam. Faculty will have a one week grading period. If a student's work is not acceptable in any area, he/she will have one opportunity to retake the necessary portion(s) of the exam during the next long semester. Students will have to reapply for graduation in that semester.

Students will be required to sign the Statement of No Appeal. Students will also sign the Academic Honesty Agreement which acknowledges that if it is verified that a student has plagiarized any portion of his/her exam the student will not be allowed to complete the program.

Final Semester:

Early February/September	Meet with Graduate Director to discuss committee formation
6 Weeks Before Exam	Ask faculty to be on committee and meet to discuss potential topics
2 Weeks Before Exam	Receive topic questions that may appear on the exam
First Friday of April/November	Examination

Exact calendar dates can be found on the MA Political Science TRACS site.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

Applying for Graduation:

A student must apply for graduation by the published deadline date posted on the University Academic Calendar. The date, as well as other dates, and instructions outlining how to apply for graduation are posted on the Graduate College web site each semester. For further information regarding the graduation application deadline, contact the Graduate College at 512-245-2581 or <http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>.

Grade-Point Requirements for Graduation:

To be eligible for graduation, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.0 (or higher if required) for the major listed on the degree outline. Effective fall 1991, no grade earned below “C” on any graduate course may apply toward a graduate degree at Texas State.

Incomplete Grades:

Incomplete grades must be cleared through the Registrar’s Office at least 10 days before the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred.

MA Students Webpage:

The [MA in Political Science student webpage](#) is managed by the political science administrative assistant. Posts on the page are made specifically for the students in the following categories.

- Current Students
- Employment
- Internships
- Prospective Students
- Quote of the Day
- Scholarships
- Workshops

The webpage allows students to post a comment to the administrative assistant as well as look at previous postings by students. Links for postings are active.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

5100 Practicum in Teaching Political Science. (1-0) An introduction to key concepts and practices in the teaching of college introductory political science courses. Provides regular in-service training and planned periodic evaluations of instructional responsibilities. Required for first-year teaching and instructional assistants in the Political Science Department. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable with different emphasis. Graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis.

5300 Topics in Ancient and Medieval Political Thought. (3-0) Selected topics in Greek and Roman political theory, patristic understanding of politics, and the political theory of the Middle and High Middle Ages. Includes study of the writings and thought of Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Seneca, Augustine, Gelasius, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Averroes, Maimonides, John of Salisbury, Aquinas, Marsilius of Padua, William of Occam, and others.

5301 Problems in American Foreign Relations. (3-0) Seminar based on selected topics in American foreign policy and United States involvement in international relations. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5302 Topics in Modern and Contemporary Political Thought. (3-0) Selected topics of political theory from the Renaissance, Reformation, Post-reformation, Enlightenment, and contemporary periods. Includes study of the writings and thought of Machiavelli, Luther, Calvin, Hooker, Bacon, Grotius, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, Kant, Smith, Burke, Bentham, Mill, Hegel, DeTocqueville, Marx, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Strauss, Voegelin, and others.

5303 Political Research and Methodology. (3-0) Topical seminar for the exploration of problems in the scope and methods of political science and public administration. The course emphasizes quantitative methods.

5306 Foundation Studies in Political science. (3-0) Students develop knowledge and skills required for success in graduate-level coursework in Political science. Course content varies depending on academic preparation. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable up to 12 hours with different emphasis. Prerequisite: Approval of graduate program director.

5319 Seminar in Constitutional Law and Theory. (3-0) In-depth analysis of selected issues in constitutional theory including the theory of judicial review, and constitutional interpretation. Examines the debate on constitutional interpretation in light of cases dealing with the First Amendment Freedom of Speech, Press, and Religion, and with substantive due process and the equal protection clause.

5325 Roots of American Constitutionalism. (3-0) An examination of the origins and evolution of the ideas which inform the American constitutional system, includes examination of the strands of thought in the classical, Christian, Medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment periods that combined with the British liberal tradition, laid the groundwork for the American experiment. Examines the pre-independence evolution of the American constitutional tradition that informed the constitutional debates.

5326 Topics in Democratic Theory. (3-0) An examination of selected issues in democratic theory including various models of democracy, the pluralist/elitist debate, the role of liberal individualism in democracy, the tension of individual rights and collective responsibilities, the place of religion in the public realm, and the tension between freedom and equality. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5327 Topics in State and Local Government. (3-0) An in-depth analysis of topics and issues in state or local governments including examination of the relationship of these governments to one another. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5327A Texas Politics and Administration. (3-0) The course examines both the theory and practice of Texas politics and administration. The focus is on how policy is formulated and implemented by the governor, the legislature, and the state bureaucracy. It also examines how that policy is influenced by external factors such as political and interest groups.

5337 Social Contract Theory (3-0) This course is an examination of the social contract, consent, and popular sovereignty in early modern thought. Attention will be given to the work of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant (as well as others) and to their critics both then and now.

5338 The Problem of Power and The Crisis of Modernity. (3-0) An examination of the crisis of modernity and its implications for humanity's future.

5339 Contemporary Perspective in Modern Liberalism. (3-0) Brief review of history/development of modern/classical liberalism and the ensuing response and contemporary alternatives.

5344 American Culture and Media. (3-3) A critical examination of the linkages between socio-political cultures, media, and the American public in the process of political communication.

5350 Problems in American Politics. (3-0) Problems arising with respect to parties, legislation, the presidency, and political behavior. May be repeated five times with different emphasis and instructor for additional credit.

5352 Theological Perspectives in Modern Democracy. (3-0) A thorough examination of the ways in which religion and groups have influenced the course of American democracy. The ongoing debate in constitutional law and democratic theory regarding the proper role of religion in American public life is analyzed.

5353 The Crisis of Liberalism and The Future of Democracy. (3-0) An examination of the nature and intellectual foundations of the liberal tradition and the implications of the crisis besetting contemporary theory for the future of democratic government.

5354 Justice and Liberty in American Thought. (3-0) This course will examine the concepts of justice and liberty in American thought from the seventeenth century to the present. Attention will be given both to the nature of liberty and justice and to their practical requirement as understood by various American thinkers, including statesmen, reformers, social scientists, and philosophers.

5360 Problems in International Politics. (3-0) A course dealing with selected topics in the field of international politics. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5362 International Conflict and Security. (3-0) This course is a graduate-level exploration of the field of security studies. Security studies focuses on what Clausewitz famously called “politics by other means”: war. This course will center on three enduring topics: the causes of war, the use of force, and the future of warfare.

5364 Problems in International Organization. (3-0) This course is an analysis of the structure, functions, and role of the international organizations in the international system. It assesses the reasons for the emergence of international organization as a means on international interaction, evaluates the historical evolution of this phenomenon from the Ancient Greeks through the Middle Ages to the Concert of Europe, as well as its modern manifestations in the League of Nations and United Nations. The course addresses the role of international regions, regional organizations, functional agencies, and bilateral organizations. The procedures and processes of international argument and policy-making are studied through participation in a Model Security Council.

5365 Problems in International Law. (3-0) This course examines the nature, functions, scope, and practice of international law. It addresses several major areas of the law including legal sources, diplomatic practice, territorial jurisdiction, legal personality, the law of state responsibility, asylum law, human rights, and the law of war. The major legal principles and theories, as well as the political context in which they operate are studied. The course is heavily research oriented and includes moot court arbitration.

5367 Economic Development in the Third World. (3-0) This course in comparative political economy examines some of the factors that account for economic development/underdevelopment in the Third World. The factors examined include political, economic and institutional variables, elucidating the multi-causal nature of socio-economic development.

5370 Internship in Government. (3-0) Practical experience in the on-going work of a selected governmental unit. The student will be assigned to a unit of federal, state, regional, or local government. A research paper and journal dealing with the Internship experience must be written under direction of a faculty member. Evaluation will be based on the research paper, journal, and work performance. Special approval must be obtained before registering.

5380 Problems in International Political Economy. Deals with selected topics in international political economy.

5382 Seminar in International Relations Theory. (3-0) A course dealing with selected topics in geopolitics and world political geography. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5384 Topics in Modern Democratic Systems. (3-0) This course in comparative politics examines the development and interaction of political institutions, policy processes, political culture, public opinion, legal settings and theoretical underpinnings of modern democratic governments. Countries of focus vary with instructor, and include governments of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Canada, Japan and Australia. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5385 Topics in Third World Politics. (3-0) This course in comparative politics examines the range of political systems of various regions of the Third World, including Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Themes include the politics of the colonial era, the nature of traditional political systems, modernization and development, political institutionalization, interest groups articulation and participation. Topics vary by region. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

5398 Directed Reading and Research. (3-0) Advanced reading and/or research on various topics in political science under the direction of a graduate faculty member. May be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for additional credit.

7330 Environmental Policy, Politics and Law. (3-0) This class examines the formulation and implementation of environmental policy and law at the state, federal and international level. The class highlights the historical drivers of policy formulation, legislation, rulemaking, permitting, treaties and international conventions, institutional capacity, risk assessment, economic development, property rights, implementation strategies, policy mechanisms, and compliance adherence.

Thesis Courses:

5399A Thesis. (3-0) This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until a student has completed the thesis in Political Science 5399B. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

5399B Thesis. (3-0) This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

5199B Thesis. (1-0) This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

Thesis A is taken only once. Thesis 5199B is only taken if the student does not complete his or her thesis in 5399B. It can be taken as many times as necessary to complete the thesis.

GRADUATE FACULTY



Dr. Cecilia Castillo

Assistant Professor of Political Science
Graduate Director of Master of Arts in Political science

Areas of Interest: Political Theory, American Political Thought, Literature and Politics



Dr. Paul DeHart

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Political Theory and Philosophy, American Political Theory



Dr. Bill DeSoto

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: State and Local Government, Interest Groups, American Political Theory



Dr. Thomas Doyle

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: International Security, International Ethics, Nuclear Ethics, and Political Theory



Dr. Robert Gorman

Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: International Relations, International Law and Organization, International Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs, History of Ethics



Dr. Kenneth Grasso

Professor of Political Science
Chair of the Department of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Political Theory, Religion and Public Life, American Political Culture



Dr. Theodore Hindson

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Russian Foreign Policy, American Presidency, The World Political Order



Dr. Paul Kens

Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Constitutional Law, American Constitutional History



Dr. Arnold Leder

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Middle East Politics, Terrorism, American Foreign Policy, Political Psychology, The Holocaust



Dr. Ed Mihalkanin

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: International Relations, Latin America - Government and Politics, US Diplomacy



Dr. Cynthia Opheim

Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Legislative Process, Political Parties, American State Politics



Dr. William Ruger

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: International Politics, Security Studies, Civil-Military Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy, Ethics and International Relations, Political Theory



Dr. Omar Sanchez

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Comparative Politics, Latin American Politics, Democratization, Quality of Democracy Issues, Economic Reform, Political Economy of Development, Party Systems



Dr. Kenneth Ward

Associate Professor of Political Science

Areas of Interest: Political Theory, Constitutional Law



Dr. Hyun Yun

Associate Professor of Political Science

*Areas of Interest: Political Communication, Public Opinion,
Social Capital, Political Behavior, Media*

HELPFUL LINKS

Apply Texas Application:

<https://admin.applytexas.org/index.html>

Graduate College:

<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>

Graduate Scholarships:

http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Prospect_Students/Fin_Grad_Ed/Scholarships.html

Financial Aid:

<http://www.finaid.txstate.edu/>

International Office:

<http://www.international.txstate.edu/about.html>

Dr. Castillo Homepage:

<http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/people/faculty/castillo.html>

TX State Registrar:

<http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/>

Career Services:

<http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu/>

Alkek Library:

<http://www.library.txstate.edu/>

Masters Political Science:

<http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/degrees-programs/graduate/MA-Political-Science.html>

MA Checklist:

<http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/resources/forms.html>

Should you have any questions concerning the MA program, please do not hesitate to contact the Political Science Department at 512-245-7582; or email the Administrative Assistant for the MA program Dodie Weidner at dw29@txstate.edu or come by UAC 355.

APPENDIX

1. Statement of No Appeal
2. Academic Honest Agreement
3. Non-Thesis Track Committee Form
4. Outcomes Assessment

Academic Honesty Agreement

The Political Science Department believes that academic honesty is essential for the personal growth of our students. A thorough understanding of academic honesty and plagiarism must exist in order to protect our students from intentional or accidental academic dishonesty in academic work. Please understand that it is often difficult for a faculty member or administrator to distinguish between intentional and accidental plagiarism. For this reason, we want to ensure that every student has knowledge of what constitutes a violation of the Honor Code as defined by the University.

"Violation of the Honor Code" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

A.) In general, but not limited to cheating,

“Cheating” means engaging in any of the following activities:

- 1) Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, or programs, or from any electronic device or equipment.
- 2) Using, during a test, printed, audio, or electronic materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- 3) Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- 4) Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test or other academic products (i.e., study guides, etc.).
- 5) Substituting for another student or permitting another person to substitute for oneself in taking an examination or preparing academic work.
- 6) Bribing or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test or obtain information about an unadministered test or other academic products.
- 7) Purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other assignment prepared by another individual or by a firm. This section does not apply to the word-processing of the rough or final versions of an assignment by a professional service.
- 8) Submitting the same essay, thesis, report, or other project, without substantial revision or expansion of the work, in an attempt to obtain credit for work submitted in another course.
- 9) Falsifying data.

B.) In general, but not limited to plagiarism,

“Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work and the inadequately or inappropriately acknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written, oral, visual, or original performative work that is offered for credit.

C.) In general, but not limited to collusion,

“Collusion” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing any work offered for credit.

D.) In general, but not limited to abuse of resource materials,

“Abuse of resource materials” means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft, or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course content.

Once you have carefully read and reviewed the above policy sign where indicated below. If you have questions or concerns regarding plagiarism, its definition, or Texas State University’s policy regarding it, please consult the University’s [Honor Code](#).

All students must have this signed document on file in the Department office before taking the comprehensive exam.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the “explanation of plagiarism.” I am in full understanding of what constitutes plagiarism, as well as Texas State University’s policy on plagiarism.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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This must be returned to the Political Science Department by 5:00pm on the 12th day of classes.

NON-THESIS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM COMMITTEE FORM

Exam Map:

Early February (Spring)-Early September (Fall): Meet with Graduate Director to discuss committee formation.

Six Weeks prior to Exam: Ask faculty to serve on committee & meet to discuss potential topics.

Two Weeks prior to Exam: Receive topic questions that may appear on the exam from the Program Director.

First Friday of April (Spring)-November (Fall): Examination (**Exam will pertain to students coursework in Political Science**)

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **ID:** _____

Committee Chair: the professor **MUST** agree to serve as your chair. It is then, your responsibility to work with your committee chair closely in the weeks prior to your oral in order successfully complete the comprehensive exam. Your committee chair **MUST** be a **Political Science Ph.D. professor** who is a member of the M A faculty.

Chairs Name (printed): _____ Chairs Signature: _____

Second Committee Member: the professor **MUST** agree to be on your committee in this position and be a **Political Science Ph.D. professor** who is a member of the M A faculty. It is your responsibility to work with this professor in order to successfully complete the comprehensive exam.

Members Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____

Third Committee Member: the professor **MUST** agree to be on your committee in this position and be a **Political Science Ph.D. professor** who is a member of the M.A faculty. It is your responsibility to work with this professor in order to successfully complete the comprehensive exam.

Members Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____

A comprehensive exam will be scheduled upon completions of this form. Once the date and time have been established a copy will be given to you. If you have questions, DO NOT hesitate to contact your office staff (Admin) for guidance. ***You must allow enough time when scheduling your comprehensive to complete this form in its entirety and the MA Director MUST have time to review your file.**

MA Director Approval: _____

Date: _____

This form is not complete until the director signs

Revised: 7-21-14

M.A. Political Science Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Evaluation

Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge in at least one field (including American politics, comparative politics, international relations and/or political theory) of important concepts such as the structure and institutions in American politics; modern democratic systems and developing political systems in comparative politics; international political economy, law, organizations, and security in international relations, and/or the history of Western political thought, liberalism, democracy, and American theory in political theory within the discipline of political science.

Exemplary (4)	Good (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)	Not Observed (0)
Concept(s) to be considered critically is/are stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding and analysis.	Concept(s) to be considered critically is/are stated, described, and clarified so that understanding and analysis is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Concept(s) to be considered critically is/are stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined, and/or backgrounds unknown.	Concept(s) to be considered critically is/are stated without clarification or description.	Concept(s) to be considered critically is/are not stated.

Outcome 2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of primary scholars and their work within at least one field (including American politics, comparative politics, international relations and/or political theory) in the discipline of political science.

Exemplary (4)	Good (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)	Not Observed (0)
Information is taken from scholar(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from scholar(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from scholar(s) with some interpretation/evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from scholar(s) without any interpretation/evaluation.	Student does not provide information from scholar(s).

Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate knowledge of normative, empirical, qualitative and/or quantitative approaches used within at least one field (including American politics, comparative politics, international relations and/or political theory) in the discipline of political science.

Exemplary (4)	Good (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)	Not Observed (0)
Identifies multiple approaches for answering questions about relevant subjects in the field.	Identifies multiple approaches for answering questions only some of which are relevant in the field.	Identifies only a single approach for answering questions relevant in the field.	Identifies one or more approaches for answering questions that are not relevant in the field.	Does not identify one approach for answering questions relevant in the field.

Outcome 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to review and synthesize relevant political science literature in at least one field (including American politics, comparative politics, international relations and/or political theory) in the discipline of political science.

Exemplary (4)	Good (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)	Not Observed (0)
Synthesizes in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches.	Presents in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches.	Presents information from relevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches	Presents information from irrelevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches.	Presents information from non-political science sources.

Outcome 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to write cogently and explain research effectively and professionally in the discipline of political science.

Exemplary (4)	Good (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)	Not Observed (0)
Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.	Conclusion is not tied to the information discussed.

Board of Regents

The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Board terms are staggered so that three members of the Board are appointed every two years during the legislative session. A non-voting student regent is also appointed annually to the board for a one-year term.



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