GUIDELINES FOR DOCTORAL STUDY IN
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FALL 2011, PUBLIC VERSION
(Final as of 10.19.2010)

These guidelines present degree requirements copied from the USC catalogue (Part 1) and supplementary information to help students and faculty navigate through the program. The catalogue should be consulted first; the supplementary sections do not repeat those provisions. Finally a simple check-list summarizes key steps and deadlines.

PART 1. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

USC graduate school requirements

The PhD degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated in-depth knowledge of the disciplines of political science and international relations and the ability to make an original research contribution. The degree requirements are fulfilled by successfully completing a minimum of 60 units beyond the B.A., the PhD screening process, three fields of concentration, a substantive paper, a foreign language requirement (if applicable), qualifying examinations, a dissertation proposal, and a written dissertation and its oral defense.

Admission

The faculty of the Department of Political Science and the School of International Relations welcome talented candidates from a variety of academic backgrounds. Although a prior degree in political science or international relations is not necessary, it is strongly recommended that applicants have completed at least some course work in related fields, including political theory, statistics and social science research methods.

Admission decisions are based on consideration of applicants' prior academic performance, as reflected in course grades, the results of the Graduate Record Examination, letters of recommendation, and a statement of intent that demonstrates a seriousness of purpose, a high level of motivation and a desire to benefit from our faculty’s areas of expertise or interest. Applicants are also required to submit a sample of their written work in English, preferably a research-oriented paper. Business, government and other practical experiences may also be taken into account. Applicants whose native language is not English must take the TOEFL examination.

Screening process
Before completion of 24 units, students will be reviewed by a screening committee made up of
the Program Director, one teacher of one of the core courses, and one professor nominated by the
student. This committee will review the student's progress, including grades and written faculty
evaluations of course work.

The committee will be responsible for deciding, at an early stage in the student's career, whether
the student is likely to finish the PhD program. After reviewing the student's record, the
committee may decide to (1) continue the student, (2) not continue the student and admit the
student into a terminal M.A. degree program, or (3) fail the student's performance in the
screening process, i.e., not continue the student in either the M.A. or PhD programs.

Course requirements

All doctoral candidates must complete an approved sequence of four courses in core theory and
methodology, including a classics-oriented course in political theory, a multivariate statistics
course, a philosophics/methodologies of social inquiry course, and a course in advanced research
methods.

The selection of additional courses should be guided by the distribution requirements of the PhD
program. The student will choose three fields of concentration. Each field of concentration
requires completion of at least three graduate level courses with an average grade consistent with
university and program requirements. Additional courses necessary to complete the 60 units
required by the Graduate School should be taken in consultation with faculty advisors and the
Guidelines for Doctoral Study in Political Science and International Relations.

Fields of concentration

The standing fields of concentration include American politics; comparative politics;
international political economy; and international security and foreign policy. The candidate
must satisfy two of these four standing fields by passing a written field qualifying examination.
The student may satisfy the third field by completing three courses in one of these four, or may
propose another customized field of study to be approved by the relevant faculty and the PhD
Program Director and steering committee. For example, students can design a third field that
cuts across disciplinary boundaries or focuses on specific areas of political science and
international relations beyond the standing fields. The Guidelines and Program Director can
provide illustrations of this type of third field.

Foreign language

The student is required to demonstrate intermediate proficiency in a language other than English
if the student's primary field requires it. Students should consult the Guidelines and the Program
Director.

Substantive paper
To show evidence of the capacity to conduct original research and before taking the qualifying exam, each student will submit a substantive paper. The student, in consultation with the chair of his or her Guidance Committee, will distribute the substantive paper to all members of the Guidance Committee at least 14 days prior to the oral defense of the qualifying examinations. The substantive paper should be presented and defended in the oral component of the qualifying examination as a viable journal submission to a peer-reviewed professional journal. It is expected that the paper should be submitted to a professional journal approved of by the student’s advisor within one year of the defense.

Qualifying examinations

Ordinarily, students will take the qualifying exams no later than the fifth semester in the PhD program. Students will be examined in two of their three fields of concentration. The third field will be completed by taking at least three courses and passing them with an average grade consistent with university and program requirements. The guidance committee will evaluate the quality of these two written exams as evidence of the capacity to define and complete a PhD dissertation.

The written examinations are closed book and will be administered over two days at least once per academic year. Examination questions will be written by a committee of the tenure track faculty in each field. The Director of POIR Graduate Studies (Program Director), in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Political Science and the Director of the School of International Relations, will appoint one faculty member from each field to coordinate the writing of the relevant field exam. The field exam coordinators will then seek assistance from other faculty in their field, including those with whom the student has studied, to compose the written examination questions.

The oral portion of the student's qualifying examination will be administered by his or her guidance committee. The oral examination will be based on the student's two written field exams and the substantive paper. The guidance committee will be made up of five members. Two members, one from each standing field, will be designated by the director of the PhD program in consultation with the student's principal advisor. In consultation with his or her principal advisor, the student will select the other two field examiners and the outside member of the guidance committee. Final approval of the guidance committee requires the signature of the Program Director.

Students will pass the qualifying examinations if no more than one member of the guidance committee dissents after reviewing the student's record at USC and performance on the written and oral parts of the qualifying exams. At the discretion of the guidance committee, students who do not pass the exams may be allowed to retake the qualifying exams the next time they are offered. Students are admitted to candidacy for the PhD when they have completed the university residency requirement and passed the written and oral portions of the PhD qualifying examinations.
Dissertation

Upon completion of the qualifying examinations, the student, in consultation with the principal advisor, selects a dissertation committee in accordance with the university rules. Within six months of completing the qualifying examinations, students should have a formal defense of the dissertation proposal before their dissertation committee. The PhD is earned upon the submission of the written dissertation and its successful public defense before the dissertation committee.

Consult the Requirements for Graduation section and the Graduate School section of this catalogue regarding time limitations for completion of the degree and other Graduate School requirements.

All graduate students considering an academic career should generally have research, teaching and advisement experiences as part of their program of study.

PART 2. STANDING FIELD FACULTY, REQUIREMENTS, AND COURSES

CORE REQUIREMENT

All incoming POIR students regardless of their research interests or fields of concentration are required to take the core courses consisting of one theory course and three methods courses. We recommend that all students take the theory course (POSC 530) and two methods courses (POSC 500 or IR 513, and POSC 600 or IR 514) in their first year. The advanced methods course can be taken in the student’s third year.

AMERICAN POLITICS (AP)

Field Description

The POIR Program features a distinguished faculty in the field of American politics, whose work covers a broad range of topics, including voting behavior, race and ethnicity, political communication, political psychology, congressional politics, American political development, urban politics, public law, and judicial politics. Their work appears in the leading peer-reviewed journals, such as the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, and Journal of Politics, and academic presses, including the University of Chicago, Cambridge University, Oxford University, Stanford University, and University of Michigan presses. In recognition of their contributions to the field, they have won numerous prizes from the American Political Science Association, including the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for the best book in political science, Pritchett Award for best book in public law, the Swanson Prize for contributions in the field of political communication, the Race and Ethnicity’s Section’s award for best first book, and the Goodnow Award for lifetime achievement.
The intellectual hallmark of faculty in the American field is investigating political phenomena at the intersection of institutions (broadly conceived) and ordinary people. Neither strictly "behavioral" nor "institutionalist," the faculty do not see their units of analysis as fixed. Instead, the strength of their work is based in the fact that it is substantively problem-driven while at the same time informed and enriched by broad concerns within democratic theory. In terms of methodology, no single approach predominates and scholars in the American field utilize a variety of approaches to collect data and assess the dynamics of the problems under study.

Given the multi-disciplinary nature of their work and the breadth of their substantive interests, the faculty seek creative and intellectually diverse students and help them develop the analytic tools needed to develop their interests and produce rigorous scholarship.

**Core Faculty:**

Jeb Barnes *
Ann Crigler
Howard Gillman
Christian Grose
Ange-Marie Hancock
Jane Junn
Mark Kann
Mat McCubbins
Michael Preston
Alison Dundes Renteln
Jeffrey Sellers
Nicholas Weller
Janelle Wong

* Field Coordinator

**Field Requirements**

**Overview.**

Students are required to complete three courses in the field prior to taking the qualifying examination. All students must take a core sequence that consists of POSC 510 and 618, which are designed to reflect the faculty's commitment to methodological pluralism and training its students to place their interests within the broader context of recurring empirical puzzles and normative concerns in American politics.

Students must also take a third course in the field consisting of either (a) a graduate seminar approved by the field or (b) a directed research seminar (POSC 590) developed in consultation with the student's advisor and approved under the Program’s rules.
There is no language or methods requirement for the American field. Students are expected to develop the relevant language and methodological skills needed to read the literature critically, prepare for the qualifying examination, and pursue their research interests.

It should be stressed that these are the minimum requirements needed for students to take the qualifying examination. Students are strongly encouraged to take further courses in American politics, work with faculty to generate reading lists in their areas of interest, and develop a research design or substantive paper that can be presented to the core faculty in American Politics prior to their fifth semester.

**Core Field Sequence**

Every student in American politics will be required to take a core sequence that consists of two seminars. The first seminar will introduce students to various approaches to the study of American politics, such as rational choice, political psychology, behavioralism, and new institutionalism. It will then look at enduring problems and questions in American politics, such as representation, collective action, delegation, coordination problems, moral hazard, and institutional stability and change.

The second semester will build on this foundation by providing students an overview of key substantive areas of American politics, such as voting behavior, Congress, the Presidency, the courts, the bureaucracy, political parties, interest groups, the media and mass movements. The primary goals of this course are (a) to reinforce the competing approaches to studying American politics and enduring problems and questions examined in the first semester of the sequence and (b) introduce the students to classic works in the field.

**Drafting and Grading of Qualifying Exams.** Prior to the POIR Program’s examination dates, the field coordinator will solicit questions from members of the student’s guidance committee and other faculty in the American field. Exams will be graded by the student’s guidance committee in accordance with University rules.

**Courses in American Politics Field**

POSC 540: Law and Public Policy.
POSC 545: Critical Issues in Politics and Policy.
POSC 546: Seminar in Environmental Policy.
POSC 610: Seminar in Party Politics.
POSC 611: Seminar in Executive and Legislative Processes.
POSC 612: Seminar in Urban Politics.
POSC 619: Seminar in Supreme Court Politics.
POSC 621: Seminar in Public Law.
POSC 622: Seminar in Political Attitudes and Behavior.
POSC 623: Seminar in American Constitutional Development.
POSC 624: Seminar in American Constitutional Law and Theory.
POSC 652: Seminar in American Political Philosophy.
Reading List

The faculty will maintain a reading list to help students prepare for the qualifying exam. The field coordinator has the responsibility of maintaining and regularly updating the reading list in consultation with the field faculty.

Language Requirement

No language requirement. Exception will be that students will have taken the core methods sequence at a minimum prior to the exam. If American Politics is not the student’s primary field and language is required in the student’s primary examination field, the student must satisfy the relevant language requirement before taking the qualifying examinations.

Sample Program of Study

Year 1
Core theory course
Core methods sequence (POSC 500 & 600)
POSC 510
POSC 618
One other field exam course

Year 2:
Four more courses including American politics elective or POSC 590 directed research

Year 3:
Four courses to complete third field and elective

COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CP)

Field Description

“Comparative politics is the focus of research of eighteen POIR faculty. Their interests include democratization, political economy, law, subnational politics, state-society relations and women in development. These faculty have regional expertise in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa. Their publications include a large number of articles in top political science journals (Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, World Politics, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly), premier policy journals (Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Governance), and leading university presses (Cambridge, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford).”

Core Faculty
Laurie Brand
Ma‘a Cross
Richard Dekmejian
Robert English
Nora Hamilton
Patrick James
David Kang
Saori Katada
Abe Lowenthal
Daniel Lynch
Gerry Munck*
Alison Renteln
Stan Rosen
Eliz Sanasarian
Mary Sarotte
Jefferey Sellers*
Nick Weller
Carol Wise

*Field co-ordinators

Field Requirements

Students concentrating in Comparative Politics will be required to take the core seminar, POSC 520 (Comparative Politics) and at least two elective courses. Additional electives are encouraged. A field examination is required except for students who take comparative politics as a third field.

Catalogue description of core seminar: POSC 520 Comparative Politics. (4 units) Survey of literature; examination of approaches, concepts, and issues in the field of comparative politics. (NOTE: The seminar is designed in coordination with the field reading list, and is intended to provide an overview of the field and preparation for the field examination.)

Courses in Comparative Politics

The list of courses that have been considered up to now as comparative politics courses are:

PS 525: Cities, Regions & Global Society
PS 535: Seminar in No. African & Middle Eastern Politics
PS 539: Political Economy and Public Policy
PS 554: Women in Global Perspective
PS 610: Seminar in Political Parties
PS 611: Seminar in Executive & Legislative Processes
PS 630: Seminar in European Politics
PS 632: Seminar in Latin American Politics
PS 633: Seminar in East Asian Politics
PS 634: Seminar in Southeast Asian Politics
PS 636: Seminar in African Politics
PS 637: Seminar in Chinese Politics
PS 640: Seminar in Problems of Comparative Politics
PS 641: Seminar in Comparative Judicial Policies, Processes & Behavior
PS 648: International Human Rights Law & Policy
PS 670: Seminar in International Law
PS 695: Social Science Theory
IR 509: Culture, Gender & Global Society
IR 525: State and Society in International Relations
IR 534: East Asian Security Issues
IR 551: International Political Economy of the Pacific Rim
IR 556: Latin America and US Foreign Policy
IR 557: Africa and US Foreign Policy
IR 558: European Foreign and Security Policy
IR 561: Japanese Foreign Policy and International Relations of East Asia
IR 563: Chinese Foreign Policy
IR 581: International Relations of the Middle East
IR 599: Advanced Field Research Methods in Comparative Politics & IR
IR 599: Migration and Diaspora

In addition, courses in religion and conflict, democratization, and human rights, have been considered comparative courses.

Beginning in 2011-2012, any course that will be counted toward the Comparative Politics field requirement must focus predominantly on the comparative explanation of politics within countries. Faculty members are encouraged to request that courses they teach be included in the field. In order for a course to be included, the syllabus for the course must be approved by the field coordinators in consultation with the relevant faculty member. Faculty may appeal the decisions of the coordinators to the full Comparative Politics faculty.

The core seminar in Comparative Politics will be cross-listed in IR and POSC. In addition, we consider that the cross listing of all comparative courses would be advisable.

An annual meeting will be held to coordinate the offerings in comparative politics. The timing of this meeting would be just ahead of the time when the unit heads decide on the courses to be taught.

Students concentrating in Comparative Politics are required to take one core seminar (POSC/IR 520) and two elective courses (from the list of courses provided by the field coordinator/s); to earn credit, a grade of B or better is needed on each course. Additional electives are encouraged. A field examination is required except for students who take comparative politics as a third field. Proficiency in a language other than English is strongly recommended.
Field Reading List

A recommended reading list for the field exam is maintained by the field co-coordinators and updated periodically. As new areas of scholarship evolve, these will be included in the reading list. However, addition to the list should be balanced through the removal of some items.

Language Requirement

Language training is strongly encouraged but not required. To ensure language competence, prospective students are encouraged to begin development of language skills for their area of specialization before entering the program. Faculty advisors may encourage individual students to acquire additional language or methodological skills for specific research programs.

Sample Program of Study

Year 1:
Fall
Methods I
Comparative core seminar
Second field course I

Spring
Methods II
Comparative Elective I
Third field course I

Year 2:
Fall
Comparative Elective II
Second field course II
Third field course II

Spring
Elective
Second field course III
Third field course III

Year 3:
Fall
Theory I
Methods Elective
Field exam in semester 5

Spring
Comparative Elective III (recommended)
Elective

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (IPE)

Field Description

International Political Economy (IPE) analyzes the interaction between politics and economics within a global context. Together, the POIR course offerings for this field provide an overview of those conceptual approaches, critical turning points, and key issues that have characterized the international political economy since the first wave of globalization in the 19th century. Candidates master the most influential bodies of theory in international relations and in IPE. Other key points of analysis include, but are not limited to, major IPE issue areas such as finance or trade, international institutions such as the World Bank or World Trade Organization (WTO), and the manner in which a given issue or institution has affected specific countries or sub-regions of the global economy.

The gateway course for the field includes: a comparison of the two waves of globalization in the 19th and 20th centuries; a detailed analysis of the post-World War II Bretton Woods era, including the design of formal rules and institutions to oversee heightened flows of international trade and finance; and, a review of those main themes and burning issues that have dominated late 20th century academic and policy debates. The latter covers, for example, the proliferation of regional integration agreements, the eruption of numerous financial crises, the changing profile of multinational corporations and foreign direct investment, those political economic challenges related to the rise of China, India and other emerging market countries within the IPE, and the most pressing collective action dilemmas that have slowed recent efforts to deepen the globalization process.

The IPE faculty are engaged in research on a number of these topics. Apart from the gateway course, POIR faculty offer seminars in special topics like Economic Bargaining in Theory and Practice, IPE of the Pacific Rim, IPE and Development, and Foreign Economic Policies of Advanced Industrial States. Students who wish to combine IPE with a regional or specific country focus have access to a rich array of courses offered in the field of Comparative Politics. Candidates can deepen their expertise in Economics and their competitiveness in the job market by presenting a special third field in Economics (see Part 3).

Core Faculty

Saori N. Katada
John Odell
Nicholas Weller
Carol Wise *

* Field Coordinator

Field Requirements
To complete this field, the student must take IR500, IR541, and at least one elective course in the field of IPE listed below.

Courses in International Political Economy

IR 500: International Relations Theory
IR 525: State and Society in International Relations
IR 541: Politics of the World Economy
IR 542: Foreign Economic Policies of Industrial Capitalist States
IR 543: Politics of International Money and Trade Relations
IR 545: International Political Economy of Development
IR 547: The Political Economy of Global Space and Environment
IR 550: Economic Bargaining Theory and Practice
IR 551: International Political Economy of the Pacific Rim
IR 581: International Relations of the Middle East
IR 599: Migration and Diaspora

Field Reading List

A recommended reading list for the field exam is maintained by the field coordinator. Each year the IPE coordinator will consult with the other IPE faculty in updating the reading list, adding new items and deleting others.

Language Requirement

IPE students must satisfy the language requirement as defined in these guidelines. The student may petition to waive this language requirement on the grounds that he or she does not plan to write a dissertation in this field.

Sample Program of Study

Year 1:
IR 500,
IR 541

Year 2:
Electives in fall or spring semesters; completion of substantive paper prior to sitting for the IPE qualifying exam in semester 5

Year 3:
Sit for qualifying exams during fall semester; complete 60 course units and satisfy language requirement by the end of spring semester
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY (ISFP)

Field Description

The POIR Program features a distinguished faculty in the fields of International Security and Foreign Policy (ISFP). Collectively they research a wide variety of issues pertaining to security broadly defined and focus on various security actors including both state and non-state actors. Our faculty’s interests reflect the growing interaction between security studies and foreign policy analysis as well as the broader intersection between international relations and comparative politics more generally.

We define security broadly, as economic and environmental as well as political/military, and as threats to individuals as well as to states. Our faculty employ a range of theoretical approaches for explaining these various security issues, including realism, liberalism and critical security studies. In addition to materialist, power-based explanations, some faculty explore the role of psychology culture, gender, ethnicity and religion as forces contributing to security and insecurity. To this end our faculty use a variety of methodologies including archival and field research, quantitative analysis, case studies, foreign policy analysis, and diplomacy studies. Faculty publications appear in leading peer-reviewed journals.

Given the multi-disciplinary nature of their research, the ISFP faculty stands ready to work with a wide range of students. Our faculty are aware of the changing nature of the International Relations discipline in light of globalization, the role of non-state actors, the importance of international law and norms, regional integration and transnational interactions. These factors impact foreign policy choices and national and international security policies in new and challenging ways.

Core Faculty

Mai’a Cross
Robert English
Jacques Hymans
Patrick James *
David Kang
Steve Lamy
Dan Lynch
Brian Rathbun
Mary Sarotte
Ann Tickner
Geoffrey Wiseman

*Field Coordinator

Field Requirements
Three courses are required for the ISFP field. The first is the graduate seminar in IR Theory (IR500). Students then may take either the basic seminar in foreign policy or international security. The third course may be either the other of the two preceding seminars (i.e., foreign policy, if the student took international security, or vice versa) or another seminar from the approved list.

**Courses in International Security and Foreign Policy**

IR 500: International Relations Theory  
IR 502: International Security  
IR 503: Theories of Diplomacy  
IR 508: Conflict Analysis and Peace Research  
IR 521: Foreign Policy Analysis  
IR 522: United States Diplomacy since 1945: Issues and Decisions  
IR 524: Formulation of U.S. Foreign Policy  
IR 525: State and Society in International Relations  
IR 531: Strategy and Arms Control  
IR 534: East Asian Security Issues  
IR 539: Seminar in International Politics – Conflict Processes

[ADD IR 509, 540, 556, 557, 561 and 581]

**Field Reading List**

There will be no field reading list.

**Language Requirement**

This is at the discretion of the student’s advisor in consultation with the Program Director and other members of the field. The key criterion is the anticipated methodological profile of the dissertation.

**Sample Program of Study**

*Year 1*  
**Fall**  
Methods I  
Theory  
IR Theory

**Spring**  
Methods II  
International Security  
Second Field Course I
Year 2
Fall
Third Seminar in ISFP
Second Field Course II
Third Field Course I

Spring
Third Field Course II
Second Field Course III
Third Field Course III

Year 3
Fall
Elective

PART 3. A CUSTOMIZED THIRD FIELD

A POIR student can choose to propose a customized third field, which is not an examined field. These customized fields should be created to help each student deepen his/her knowledge of a particular topic that cannot be acquired through the standing fields. We list below examples of customized fields, but other possibilities could also be imagined.

Culture, Gender and Global Society (CGGS)

Human Rights

International Economics

Law and Public Policy

Political Communication

American Political History

PART 4. OTHER RULES AND PROCEDURES

Transferring credits from other institutions

Students who have completed graduate-level courses at other institutions prior to entering the program may petition to have such work counted toward their USC degrees. With approval from the Program Director and the respective field coordinators, the student may transfer up to 24 units from outside POIR’s offerings. Students must complete at least nine four-unit USC courses (known as “courses in residence”) within the POIR program. Students wishing to receive credit for courses taken at other universities should consult with the Program Director regarding