



PhD in Political Science (GOVT) - Degree Plan for students admitted after Fall 2025

Student name: _____

G#: _____

Advisor: _____

Foundation Courses - 9 credits

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
POGO 840	Policy, Politics, and American Govt Institutions	3		
GOVT 520	Political Theory	3		
GOVT 530	Comparative Politics	3		
GOVT 540	International Relations	3		
GOVT 550	Public Administration	3		

Major Field Courses – Minimum 21 credits divided between two major fields

American Government and Politics: 2 of the following 5 seminars are required

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
GOVT 603	Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law	3		
GOVT 604	Seminar in Congress and Legislative Behavior	3		
GOVT 605	Seminar on the Presidency	3		
GOVT 706	Seminar in Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	3		
POGO 841	US Political Behavior and the Process of Policymaking	3		

Comparative Politics: The following 2 seminars are required (POGO courses must be approved In advance)

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
GOVT 631 or POGO equivalent	Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions	3		
GOVT 731 or POGO equivalent	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics	3		

International Relations: 2 of the following 4 seminars are required (POGO courses must be approved in advance)

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
PUBP 783	Global Governance	3		
GOVT 741 or POGO equivalent	Advanced Seminar in International Relations	3		
GOVT 743	International Political Economy	3		
GOVT 745	International Security	3		

Public Administration: The following 2 seminars are required

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
GOVT 753	Seminar in Third Party Governance	3		
GOVT 755	Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy	3		

Minor Field – 9 credits of advanced coursework in Political Theory or a third field

Minor field: _____

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade

PhD Research Seminar – 3 credits

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
GOVT 800	PhD Research Seminar	3		

Advanced Research Methodology Courses – 9 credits

POGO 801 and GOVT 511 are required, plus one additional course in quantitative or qualitative methods. The last of the three courses should correspond with the student’s dissertation research needs. Language coursework and proficiency may count as the third methodology course work following language assessment and approval.

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade
POGO 801	Research Design for Social Sciences & Public Policy			
POGO 511 (required)	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government <i>PhD section encouraged; Passing a statistics screening exam required for any non-PhD section</i>			
Third methods course: _____				

Electives - Up to 9 credits

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester	Grade

Dissertation Credits

998 Proposal: min 3, max 6. **999 Dissertation:** min 6. **998+999 combined:** min 12, max 24

Course #	Course Title	Credits/Semester	Credits/Semester	Credits/Semester
GOVT 998	Dissertation proposal			
GOVT 999	Dissertation Research			

Total Credit Hours: _____

Anticipated Completion Dates

Comprehensive Exam: _____

Dissertation Proposal (GOVT 998): _____

Dissertation Research (GOVT 999): _____

Major and minor fields:

Students must declare two major fields in from the choices below. A minimum of 21 credits are required divided between two major fields. A Major Field is a structured curriculum with a required set of core courses and a pre-approved set of supplemental courses listed below. These two major fields will be the basis of your comprehensive exam. The minor field is a substantive area, often one that could or will likely be related to the dissertation. A minor field chosen in methods may not include any of the courses counted for the methods requirement. Moreover, a methods minor may not be a foreign language. Courses chosen for a minor in methods must cohere in some substantive way; they may not simply be a list of “methods” courses.

The Major Fields for Political Science are:

- American Government and Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Public Administration

Some examples of minor fields are:

Middle East studies, interest groups, French politics, peasant movements, state theory, etc. The student’s advisor and the Program Director must approve any choice of courses constituting a minor field.

Courses listed below will apply to the Major Field or Minor Field under which they fall as Major Field and Minor Field electives. **Of the course in bold, students must take 2 courses in the Major Field.** Students may petition their advisor to apply courses from outside this list to their Major Field of Minor Field. Please note that the lists are not exhaustive and additional course options may become available.

All *non-Schar* courses have to be pre-approved by your academic advisor before registering.

American Government and Politics

- **GOVT 603 – Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law**
- **GOVT 604 – Seminar on Congress and Legislative Behavior**
- **GOVT 605 – Seminar on the Presidency**
- **GOVT 706 – Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations**
- **POGO 841 US Political Behavior and the Process of Policymaking**
- POGO 750 – Special Topics Courses in American Government & Politics
 - o African American Politics and Policy
 - o Voting Rights Policymaking
 - o Immigration Policy and Politics
 - o Civil Rights Law

Comparative Politics

- **POGO 729 International Development Practices**
- **GOVT 631 or POGO Equivalent - Seminar in Comparative Politics & Institutions**
- **GOVT 731 or POGO Equivalent - Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics**
- POGO 750 – Special Topics Courses in Comparative Politics
 - o The China Challenge
 - o Civil Wars and Stabilization in Africa
 - o European Political and Economic Union
 - o Revolutions and Social Protest
 - o Russian and Middle East Policy
 - o Nationalism\Democracy and Authoritarianism
 - o Post-Conflict Justice & Security
 - o Venezuela To Mexico: Social, Policy Dynamics & Security
 - o Venezuela To Mexico: Security Challenges
 - o Latin American Security Challenges
 - o Immigration Policy and Politics
 - o Theories of State

International Relations Specialization

- **GCP 603 International Trade Policy**
- **POGO 729 International Development Practices**
- **PUBP 783 Global Governance**
- **GOVT 741 or POGO Equivalent: Advanced Seminar in International Relations**
- **GOVT 743 International Political Economy**
- **GOVT 745 International Security**
- **POGO 750 – Special Topics Courses in International Relations**
 - o Current Issues in East Asia
 - o Current Issues in Latin America
 - o Nationalism
 - o Middle East Security
 - o Middle East: Security Challenges & US Response
 - o Policy and Security in South Asia
 - o Russian Security Policy
 - o South Asian Politics/Security
 - o The Coercive State
 - o Nationalism
 - o Geopolitics Energy Security
 - o Social Movements