

# Political Science, PhD

## Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy in political science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.40.

Four fields of study are available: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and methodology. Each student chooses three fields of study for qualifying examinations.

The PhD in political science requires the following coursework.

## Required Coursework

Students must complete the appropriate course numbered 5100–5700 before enrolling in a course numbered 7000 or above. In unusual circumstances and with the permission of the instructor teaching the higher-level course, a student may enroll in that course and a course numbered 5100–5700 at the same time.

## Core Courses

Students take the following courses, except POLI:7270, on an A–F graded basis. Students must earn a B or above in all courses except POLI:5000 and POLI:7270.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
POLI:5000	Introduction to Political Analysis	4
POLI:5001	Introductory Methodology	4
POLI:5003	Intermediate Methodology	4
POLI:7003	Advanced Methodology	4
POLI:7270	Responsible Research in Political Science	1

Graduate students are expected to take at least 12 s.h. of coursework per semester through their second year of graduate study. Typically, this is in regularly scheduled courses rather than readings courses.

## Additional Courses

Students complete 55 s.h. of additional coursework in field area, advanced political science, and elective courses.

During the third year, students are expected to take a minimum of 12 s.h. of regularly scheduled coursework; readings courses should be limited to the second semester of the third year. Students may take up to 12 s.h. in readings courses (not counting coursework accumulated in summer terms, when readings courses are often all that is available).

## Field Area

Students complete three of the following field area requirements. All courses must be taken on an A–F graded basis.

Course #	Title	Hours
<b>American Politics</b>		

These courses:

POLI:5100	American Politics	4
POLI:7150	Problems in American Politics (taken twice for 4 s.h. each)	8

## International Relations

This course:

POLI:5500	International Politics	4
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8 s.h. from these:

POLI:7502	International Institutions and Cooperation (may be repeated)	4
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POLI:7503	International Conflict and Cooperation (may be repeated)	4
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POLI:7550	Problems in International Politics (may be repeated)	4
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## Comparative Politics

This course:

POLI:5400	Comparative Politics	4
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8 s.h. from these:

POLI:7202	Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior (may be repeated)	4
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POLI:7450	Problems of Comparative Politics (may be repeated)	4
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## Methodology

8 s.h. from these:

POLI:5700	Introduction to Formal Models in Political Science (may be repeated)	4
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POLI:7002	Topics Methodology (may be repeated)	4
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Students may develop a self-defined field area, drawing upon coursework outside of political science with the permission of their advisor.

## Advanced Political Science Courses

Students take a minimum of 12 s.h. of political science courses (prefix POLI) numbered 5000 or above to satisfy the advanced political science courses requirement.

## Electives

Elective courses must bring the total credit for the PhD to a minimum of 72 s.h. Elective coursework is tailored to a student's background and career goals. It is selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee and can include research.

Students may enroll in any course numbered 4000 or above, including additional political science courses (prefix POLI). From these, students are permitted a total maximum of 12 s.h. from POLI:7900 Readings Tutorial, POLI:7901 Research Tutorial, and POLI:7910 PhD Dissertation.

## Qualifying Exam and Comprehensive Exam

Students must complete their qualifying examinations by the end of the third year. They take their comprehensive examination (oral defense of the dissertation proposal) by the middle of the first semester of their fourth year.

## Postcomprehensive Registration

The fourth and fifth years are spent on dissertation research and writing. Students who do basic research and gather data abroad often require an additional year to complete the dissertation. Graduate College regulations require that students be registered at the University of Iowa each semester after passing the comprehensive examination until their degree is awarded, and that this registration accurately reflects the amount and type of work undertaken, the use of university facilities, and the amount of consultation with the faculty. After passing their comprehensive examination, students working on their dissertation research should register for POLI:7910 PhD Dissertation.