



## **M.A. DEGREE in POLITICAL SCIENCE**

### Regulations and Course Information

#### Political Science Department McMaster University 2016 - 2017

##### **CONTENTS:**

- I. Degree Requirements
  - a. Course Work with Comprehensive Examinations
  - b. Course Work with Thesis
  - c. Collaborative Public Policy and Administration Program
- II. Course Work
- III. Comprehensive Examinations
- IV. M.A. Thesis
- V. Graduate Course Offerings 2016 - 2017
- VI. Globalization Institute
- VII. Other Regulations
- VIII. Contacts and Facilities

## **I. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to the M.A. in Political Science degree program requires an average of B+ or better in Honours Political Science or, with the approval of the Department's Graduate Chair, in another discipline. The M.A. in Political Science offers concentrations (majors) in four areas: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory and Public Policy. There is also a Collaborative M.A. Program with the University of Guelph in Public Policy and Administration. In the M.A. in Political Science program, studies in all areas may take the form of course work and comprehensive examinations, or course work and a thesis.

### **A. COURSE WORK WITH COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

Six half courses (or equivalent) at the graduate level and written comprehensive examinations. Normally 3 half courses are taken during the Fall term and 3 half courses during the Winter term. The comprehensive examinations are written in the latter half of July. Students are responsible for one major (two subfields) and one minor (one subfield) area. Major subfields may be chosen from: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and Public Policy and Administration. Minor subfields may be chosen from: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Policy and Administration.

### **B. COURSE WORK WITH THESIS**

Five half courses (or equivalent) and a thesis, which must demonstrate independent research skills. Full-time students who wish to write a thesis must submit a thesis proposal for departmental approval by December 1<sup>st</sup> of Term 1. If the thesis proposal is not approved, students may continue in the course/comprehensive option. The thesis option is normally a two-year program.

### **C. PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Public Policy and Administration Program is offered in collaboration with the Department of Political Science at the University of Guelph. Students concentrating in this area must satisfy the following requirements:

- a)** Six half courses (or equivalent) at the graduate level including \*783 - Comparative Public Policy, either \*794 Public Policy and Administration Research Seminar or \*796 – Research Design and Methods, \*784 – Quantitative Political and Policy Analysis and either \*785 - Public Sector Management or \*786 - Organizational Theory and the Public Sector.
  
- b)** The two half year courses beyond those required may be taken on either campus or, with the approval of the Graduate Advisor, up to six units (2 half courses) may be taken from an allied discipline at the McMaster campus; and
  
- c)** Written comprehensive examinations in the major field of Public Policy and Administration with a minor field of Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations or Political Theory.

## II. COURSE WORK

Students who undertake the course/comprehensive option are required to complete 18 units (6 half courses) of course work beyond the B.A. level. For students who pursue the course/thesis option, the requirement is 15 units (5 half courses): 9 units to be taken in Term 1, followed by 6 units in Term 2.

Students should consult with the Graduate Advisor and with the Area Convenors on the appropriate courses to take.

The University and the Department use a letter grade system in which the following are passing grades: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-. **A grade below B- is considered a failure in graduate courses.** While a B- standing is sufficient to earn a degree by School of Graduate Studies criteria, **a failure in any course normally results in the Department recommending that the student not be allowed to continue.**

Exceptional Incompletes: Incompletes will be granted **only in very unusual circumstances.** To qualify, the student must apply for one by filling out the Department's Incomplete Application Form. This must be signed by the instructor, and must be submitted to the Graduate Chair for approval. Deadlines for removal of incomplete grades are given in the Calendar. Courses still incomplete after the deadline are given a grade of F (fail) and the student is not permitted to re-register without the approval of the School of Graduate Studies Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study.

## III. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Only those students in the course/comprehensive option will write comprehensive examinations. Examinations are normally scheduled over a one-week period in mid-July.

Examinations will be written in both a major area and a minor area. The areas in which students may choose to major are: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and Public Policy and Administration. Minor subfields may be chosen from: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Policy and Administration.

In the major area, comprehensive examinations consist of 2 three-hour subfield examinations. In the minor area, comprehensive examinations consist of 1 three-hour subfield examination. Students will be asked to confirm their selected areas (major, minor and subfields) for comprehensive examination by late April. Study guides, as well as copies of the comprehensive examination questions for the previous year will be made available before that time. Students are generally advised to choose subfields in which they have done course work in the Department.

Comprehensive examinations will be graded by at least two faculty members. As with courses, **a grade below B- is considered a failure in the comprehensive examinations.**

The outcome of a student's comprehensive examinations will be reported to the School of Graduate Studies as "pass" or "fail". If the result of the examinations is "fail", the student will be given a second opportunity to take the examination, or those portions on which the failure occurred. This second opportunity will normally be offered in mid-December. Students should be aware that they will be required to register and pay full-time tuition fees in order to take this second opportunity. If a student chooses to withdraw from the program prior to that second opportunity, the result "fail" will remain on the student's record.

#### **IV. M.A. THESIS**

Only those students in the course/thesis option will write a thesis.

A student who wishes to write an M.A. thesis should seek out a thesis supervisor as soon as possible on entering the program, and should begin to work out a potential topic for research with that supervisor. The supervisory committee, which must include no fewer than 3 members (including the supervisor) should be established no later than **October 15**, during Term I of the program. Members of the supervisory committee are normally all from the Department, although one can be from another department.

The student will develop his/her thesis proposal in consultation with the thesis supervisor and other members of the supervisory committee. The thesis proposal must be no longer than 3,500 words or 15 double-spaced pages (including references). The goal of the proposal is to enable the student to focus early in the program on the thesis and to obtain preliminary agreement on its acceptability and feasibility from a supervisory committee. The proposal must also be approved by the supervisory committee before data collection begins. Because of similarities in the structures of M.A. and Ph.D. thesis proposals, M.A. students may want to consult the department guidelines for writing Ph.D. dissertation proposals.

The supervisory committee must submit a memorandum, along with a copy of the thesis proposal to the Graduate Chair. The Departmental requirement is that the thesis proposal be submitted to the Graduate Chair by **December 1** during Term I of the program. The supervisory committee will then meet with the Graduate Chair to discuss the proposal and decide whether it is to be formally approved. If the thesis proposal is not approved, the student may continue in the course/comprehensive option.

The thesis defense is to be undertaken according to the regulations set out by the School of Graduate Studies. The M.A. thesis should be no more than 30,000 words (or 125 double-spaced pages) including all front matter, references and bibliography.

The M.A. thesis is normally a two-year program. Space permitting, students in the second year of the thesis program will be provided office space on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of KTH, along-side Ph.D students. M.A. thesis students are also eligible to apply for the graduate travel grants offered by Department.

## V. GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

### Canadian Politics

POLSCI 606 (3) Canadian Public Policy  
POLSCI 760 (1) Political Institutions of the Canadian State  
POLSCI 770 (2) Globalization and the Canadian State

### Comparative Politics

POLSCI 706 (1) Comparative Politics of Health Policy  
POLSCI 716 (2) Comparative Authoritarianism  
POLSCI 740 (1) Theories of Comparative Politics  
POLSCI 788 (1) Comparative Foreign Policy: Canadian & U.S. Foreign Policy  
POLSCI 790 (2) The Politics of Economy Policy in Market Economies

### International Relations

POLSCI 705 (1) Global Public Policy  
POLSCI 767 (1) Politics of the Global South: An IR Perspective  
POLSCI 768 (2) Political Economy of Global Climate Change  
POLSCI 770 (2) Globalization and the Canadian State  
POLSCI 771 (2) Advanced Concepts of International Relations Theory  
POLSCI 772 (1) Theories of International Politics  
POLSCI 774 (1) Global Political Economy  
POLSCI 777 (2) Global Governance  
POLSCI 788 (1) Comparative Foreign Policy: Canadian & U.S. Foreign Policy  
POLSCI 789 (2) Global Finance  
POLSCI 796 (2) Research Design and Methods

### Political Theory

POLSCI 715 (2) Liberalism and Imperialism  
POLSCI 756 (1) The Autonomy of Politics

### Public Policy

POLSCI 705 (1) Global Public Policy  
POLSCI 770 (2) Globalization and the Canadian State  
POLSCI 774 (1) Global Political Economy  
POLSCI 782 (2) Development Theory and Administration  
POLSCI 783 (2) Comparative Public Policy  
POLSCI 784 (1) Quantitative Political and Policy Analysis  
POLSCI 785 (1) Public Sector Management  
POLSCI 788 (1) Comparative Foreign Policy: Canadian and U.S. Foreign Policy  
POLSCI 790 (2) The Politics of Economic Policy in Market Economies  
POLSCI 796 (2) Research Design and Methods

### School of Graduate Studies / McMaster University (mandatory requirements)

**SGS #101** Academic Research Integrity & Ethics  
**SGS #201** AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act)

Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services (EOHSS) / **Mandatory Requirements**

**EOHSS** (Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services)

**Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training**

**Violence and Harassment Prevention Training**

## **VI. GLOBALIZATION INSTITUTE**

The Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition (IGHC) is a research Institute which hosts an M.A. in Globalization Studies and supports teaching and research on a wide variety of global studies topics. The Institute is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Kenneth Taylor Hall (KTH-220). It runs a working paper series, hosts numerous visiting speakers, awards essay prizes and grants research scholarships. Political Science and International Relations students, with an interest in globalization are welcome and encouraged to take courses in the Institute and participate in all of its activities.

## **VII. OTHER REGULATIONS**

For a complete listing of Regulations for Master's Degrees, students are advised to consult the **School of Graduate Studies Calendar**: <http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php>

## **VII. CONTACTS AND FACILITIES**

### **GRADUATE COMMITTEE 2016 - 2017**

Chair: Dr. Karen Bird

MA Political Science Graduate Advisor: Dr. Stephen McBride

MA IR Graduate Advisor: Dr. Robert O'Brien

Scholarships Coordinator: Dr. Alina Sajed

TA Coordinator: Dr. Netina Tan

Curriculum Coordinator: Dr. Peter Graefe

Guelph-McMaster MA in Public Administration: Dr. Katherine Boothe

Graduate Student Representative: TBA

Graduate Student Representative: TBA

### **AREA CONVENORS 2016 - 2017**

Canadian: Dr. Henry Jacek

Comparative: Dr. Nibaldo Galleguillos

International Relations: Dr. Marshall Beier

Political Theory: Dr. Inder Marwah

Public Policy: Dr. Stephen McBride

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Manuela Dozzi

Email: [dozzim@mcmaster.ca](mailto:dozzim@mcmaster.ca)

Phone: (905) 525-9140 Ext. 24742

**DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE:** <http://politicalscience.mcmaster.ca/>

## **FACILITIES**

At present, M.A. Political Science and M.A. International Relations students have access to desk & locker space in Kenneth Taylor Hall, Room 705 (KTH-705). There are also a couple of computers and WiFi access available for your use in that space.

Most course readings will be placed in KTH-502 and can be borrowed for photocopying.

Your key administrative contact is Manuela Dozzi.