

Core Courses and Field Requirements

Total coursework required (14 courses/42 credit hours of coursework)*

Core Coursework required:

1. GVPT 622 - Quantitative Methods Course
2. GVPT 700 - Scope and Methods Course
3. One Political Theory core course (either GVPT 741, GVPT 742, or GVPT 743)
(required for all fields) (all three required if major/minor Field is Political Theory).
4. Field survey course or courses (see brochure—e.g. GVPT 708 in IR, GVPT 780 in Comparative, etc.)
5. Field coursework (see brochure). At least four courses in each field. Whether or not the core courses are included in the four varies by field.

***In addition to coursework credit hours, a minimum of 12 dissertation credits (GVPT 899) are required. Registration for dissertation credit is processed automatically by the registrar once a student has Advanced to Candidacy. Registration is mandatory every fall and spring semester until the degree is conferred. Students who have completed coursework but not yet Advanced to Candidacy will register for Pre-Candidacy credits (GVPT 898).**

Field Course Requirements

American Politics

In addition to the core requirements of the doctoral program, all students choosing American politics as either their primary or secondary field of study are required to take both core courses in American politics, GVPT 770 (Seminar in American Political Institutions) and GVPT 771 (Seminar in American Political Behavior) and GVPT 722 (Advanced Quantitative Methods for Political Science). Moreover, to conduct effective research in American politics and, importantly, to have success on the academic job market, it is generally necessary to have considerably more methodological training. Students are strongly encouraged to take additional courses in methodology either within the department, in other departments within the university (such as economics or survey methodology), and/or at summer training programs such as the ICPSR summer program in quantitative methods at the University of Michigan.

Comparative Politics

The comparative politics sub-field has one specific substantive course requirement, GVPT 780 Comparative Politics: Field Seminar. In addition, it is strongly advised that students planning to take a qualifying examination in this field take at least three additional Comparative Politics classes in order to obtain sufficient breadth of understanding of the sub-field and depth in an area of concentration. GVPT 831 counts as a required Comparative course because a number of readings in the course reference the Comparative literature. For the two additional Comparative courses it is recommended that students take courses with different faculty members in the sub-field as this will provide a variety of viewpoints into Comparative Politics and its relationship to other fields in the discipline and help students eventually choose dissertation committee members. Students taking Comparative as their primary field must also complete the CP-IR course sequence (see Appendix). Students taking a comprehensive examination in Comparative Politics will have a mentorship committee that will assist in developing an appropriate reading list in preparation for the examination. A list of general Comparative Politics books and articles is also available as well as a list of guiding questions for study. (See Appendix)

International Relations

In order to specialize in the field of International Relations (IR), students are required to take the core field seminar (GVPT708) plus at least three other IR courses. It is expected that the additional courses beyond GVPT708 include international conflict (GVPT808B) and international political economy (GVPT 761). Students taking IR as their primary field must also complete the CP-IR course sequence (see Appendix). (See Appendix)

Political Methodology and Formal Theory

Students must complete the following requirements to specialize in this field:

- GVPT 622: Quantitative Methods for Political Science (with a B+ or better)
- GVPT 722: Advanced Quantitative Methods for Political Science (with a B+ or better).
- GVPT 831: Formal Theories of Politics (with a B+ or better)
- And 3 additional courses according to one of the following sets of concentrations:
 - Formal Theory: 3 formal theory courses beyond GVPT 831
 - Quantitative Methods: 3 quantitative courses beyond GVPT 722
 - Mixed Methods I: 1 formal theory course beyond GVPT 831 and 2 quantitative methods courses beyond 722
 - Mixed Methods II: 1 research design course and 2 quantitative courses beyond GVPT 722
 - Mixed Methods III: 1 research design course and 2 formal theory courses beyond GVPT 831
- A comprehensive exam consisting of an original research paper with an oral exam component. The exam will presume basic proficiency in calculus.

Students admitted prior to the 2012-13 academic year will be able to take the exam under the previous written exam format; students admitted for 2012-13 or after will be subject to the new field structure.

Political Philosophy

Political philosophy majors are expected to take both a survey course on ancient and medieval political philosophy (GVPT 741) and one on modern political philosophy, that is, Machiavelli to Nietzsche (GVPT 742), plus four other courses, including the survey course on contemporary political philosophy (GVPT 743). Moreover, majors are strongly urged to take courses with as many different professors as possible so as to learn first-hand about the variety of approaches taken by each faculty member.

Appendix

Core Comparative & International Relations: Required CP-IR Course Sequence

Overview

The objective of this course sequence is to have incoming Ph.D. students in Comparative Politics and/or International Relations acquire the tools needed to read statistical and game theoretic work in their respective fields. We do not expect one year of course work to produce methodologists or game theorists. Rather, the sequence will encourage students to become applied practitioners, a difficult skill to acquire when methods courses are taken haphazardly during one's graduate career. The course sequence will also lay the groundwork for those students who seek further training in methods. By requiring the same sequence of all incoming students in Comparative and IR we also hope to create a cohort of students who, by virtue of taking the same courses, build academic and professional relationships that contribute to mutual long-term learning. Finally, we hope to knit the faculties in Comparative and IR more closely together. This will allow us to offer a unique "Maryland" brand that bridges comparative and international political economy, contentious politics and security studies, and studies of domestic and global civil society.

Sequence

In the Fall semester students take GVPT622 and GVPT700, which are already required. The third course in the Fall semester will be either the core seminar in IR, GVPT708a (for IR students), or the core seminar in Comparative Politics, GVPT780 (for Comparative students). In the Spring semester of the first year all students will take GVPT 722. Comparative Politics students will also take an elective in Comparative and IR students will take an IR elective. All students must take a formal theory course, GVPT831, which will be offered either in the Spring of the first or second year. First field Comparative students must also take GVPT708, the core IR course and first field IR students must also take GVPT780, the core Comparative course; students should take these courses in year 2 so that they can take an elective in their first field during year 1. In other words, students will take course sequences in (a) statistics, (b) research design/modeling, and (c) core work in comparative and international politics.

Second Year & Beyond

After completing their first year, all students in Comparative and IR will have the tools necessary to evaluate critically technical articles and books in their substantive areas of interest and to begin making contributions to the literature. As noted above, students who did not take GVPT708 or GVPT780 in year 1 must do so, and should take these courses in year 2. Advanced courses in Comparative and IR, for example conflict studies, political economy, or global governance, will be offered to second- and third-year students, who can build on the base of knowledge acquired during their first year. For students who have an interest in learning more about statistical or formal theory approaches to Comparative and IR, more advanced courses will also be offered in their second and third year. Finally, some students who take the CP-IR sequence will decide that they prefer other approaches. We welcome such informed choices and fully support those decisions. All we ask is for students to complete the sequence outlined above. Students can then move in various productive directions.