American Politics Field Statement

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A hallmark of the study of American Politics is diversity of subject, approach, and method. The subject matter comprises, among other things, analysis of Congress, the bureaucracy, interest groups, the Presidency, voting, public opinion and participation, race and ethnicity; the conceptual approaches include, among other perspectives, rational choice, historical, and behavioral perspectives; and the field encompasses, among other methods, quantitative analysis of aggregate data, qualitative fieldwork, survey research and randomized experiments. No single department can represent fully this diversity. But the department faculty in American Politics (together with colleagues in the Graduate School of Business) comes remarkably close.

Refer to Chapter 2 of the Program Guide for additional important information on the department’s requirements for advancing to candidacy.

The following requirements apply to students who entered the PhD program in 2018-19 and to students who entered the PhD program in 2017-18 who opted into this system. All other students should refer to the program guide and field statement for the year they entered the program.

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 1st Field American Politics Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with American politics as a first field, students must:

1. Complete PS 420A and PS 420B for five units each with grades of A- or higher. This core graduate sequence in American Politics introduces students to the gallery of both faculty and research in American Politics. PS 420A focuses on analysis of political institutions and PS 420B addresses the analysis of individual behavior.

2. Complete two elective courses for at least 3 units each with grades of A- or higher. The electives are to be 3xx or 4xx courses offered by a member of the American Politics field. See pre-approved options on page 2 of this document. To count as an approved elective, courses taught by non-Political Science faculty that do not appear on the course options list or directed readings must be approved by the Field Convener on the basis of a written syllabus.

3. Comprehensive Exam: Complete and pass a Comprehensive Exam in spring quarter of the second year. The exam in American Politics requires students to demonstrate knowledge of concepts and research findings on major political phenomena at the level of individuals and institutions.

4. Field Paper: Students taking AP as a first field will write a field paper in American Politics.
Pre-candidacy Requirements for 2nd Field American Politics Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with American politics as a second field, students must:

1. Complete PS 420A and PS 420B for five units each with grades of A- or higher. This core graduate sequence in American Politics introduces students to the gallery of both faculty and research in American Politics. PS 420A focuses on analysis of political institutions and PS 420B addresses the analysis of individual behavior.

2. Complete one elective course for at least 3 units each with a grade of A- or higher. The elective is to be a 3xx or 4xx course offered by a member of the American Politics field. See elective options list below. To count as an approved elective, courses taught by non-Political Science faculty that do not appear on the course options list or directed readings must be approved by the Field Convener on the basis of a written syllabus.

3. Students designating American Politics as a second field do not need to take the AP comp exam or write an AP field paper.

Pre-candidacy Requirements for 3rd Field American Politics Students

In order to be eligible to advance to candidacy with American politics as a third field, students must complete two Political Science department courses in American politics with grades of B or higher. These classes must be taken for at least three units each. The courses are to be 3xx or 4xx courses offered by a member of the American Politics field.

Required Minimum Grades

Should a student not receive the required minimum grade in a class taken for their first, second or third field, they may be required to revise and resubmit work associated with the course, retake the course, or take a different course to fulfill the requirement. They may also be advised to switch fields. The appropriate option will be decided by the faculty and communicated to the student by the field convener. All required pre-candidacy course requirements should be completed by the end of the second year in the program so that the student is eligible to advance to candidacy on time. Refer to section 2 of the program guide for additional information on advancement to candidacy.

Workshop

The American Politics Workshop (PS 422) is an important forum for students to engage with new and exciting American Politics research. It also offers students an opportunity to further integrate themselves into a professional community comprised of Stanford faculty, scholars from other institutions, and most importantly, of student peers at all stages of doctoral work. All American Politics students are strongly encouraged to attend the Workshop regularly.
2018-19 Elective Course Options in American Politics

Fall:
320R The Presidency - Moe
422P Creating the American Republic - Rakove
325L Law and New Political Economy - Weingast, Rodriguez (SLS)
460A Political Economy I - Hall, Gentzkow (Econ) prereqs: 450A, 450B, 356A
POLECON 680: Foundations of Political Economy (Callander/GSB)

Winter
320C Politics of the Administrative State - Moe
324L Psychology of Communication of Politics - Krosnick
423A Lab of the Study of American Values I - Tomz, Sniderman (by application only)
340A Democratic Politics - Jusko
460B Political Economy II - Fearon, Gabriel Carroll (Econ) prereq: 356A
POLECON 681: Economic Analysis of Political Institutions (Schotts/GSB)

Spring
POLECON 682: Institutional Theories and Empirical Tests in Political Economy (Krehbiel/GSB)- if taught