Social Sciences Board

Approved by TAC 1 June 2012

Title of programme
MPhil Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society)

Brief note about nature of change:
Addition of Polish as one of the possible required languages; changes to ordering of units.

Effective date
From 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013- Qualifying Test; and in 2014 – Final Examination)

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2011

Detail of change

1. P.569, delete l.41-P.570 l.29, and substitute:

   ‘(i) Research Methods in Political Science is a compulsory paper for candidates in Comparative Government and in European Politics and Society. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics, and will also produce a Research Design Essay of between 4,000 and 6,000 words, excluding bibliography, on research design as it bears on some aspect of politics. Two hard copies of the Research Design Essay, together with a copy on CD, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate’s own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The essay will normally be related to the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis. The Director of Graduate Studies in Politics shall draw the attention of the examiners to the names of any candidates who have failed to complete their..."
research methods training to a satisfactory level of quality, and the examiners may require candidates to retake the course or a specified part thereof.

(ii) Research Methods in Political Theory is a compulsory paper for candidates in Political Theory. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics, and will also produce a Research Design Essay of between 4,000 and 6,000 words, excluding bibliography, on research design as it bears on some aspect of political theory. Two copies of the Research Design Essay, together with a copy on CD, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate’s own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The essay will normally be related to the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis. The Director of Graduate Studies in Politics shall draw the attention of the examiners to the names of any candidates who have failed to complete their research methods training to a satisfactory level of quality, and the examiners may require candidates to retake the course or a specified part thereof.‘.

2. P.570, l.32, delete ‘and Spanish’ and substitute ‘Polish, or Spanish’.

3. P.571, delete l.4-l.10, and substitute:

‘(1) A thesis* of not more than 30,000 words, excluding bibliography. Two hard copies, together with a copy on CD, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Monday of first week of Trinity Term. The thesis must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate’s own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.’.

4. P.571, l.13, delete ‘x’ and substitute ‘y’.

5. P.571, l.15, delete ‘w’ and substitute ‘x’.

6. P.571, l.15, delete ‘af’ and substitute ‘ag’.

7. P.571, l.17, delete ‘af’ and substitute ‘ag’.

8. Delete from P.573, l.22 to P.574, l.39, and substitute:

‘(w) Comparative Presidentialism This course will introduce students to the leading theoretical, empirical and cross-regional issues that are addressed by comparative studies of presidentialism. Candidates will be required to show knowledge of competing definitions of presidentialism; debates about the contribution of presidentialism to democratisation and regime stability; the phenomenon of coalitional presidentialism; the impact of presidentialism on legislative politics and cabinet formation; presidentialism and party development; paraconstitutional practices and informal institutions under presidentialism; and the policy consequences of presidential systems.

(x) Theory of Voting The properties of majority rule; the Condorcet and Borda rules; the
main modern results on majority rule (including the median voter theorem, Arrow's, May's, Sen's, and Gibbard's Theorems); the relationship between majority rule and proportional representation, and between proportional representation and apportionment; normative consequences of the formal results on voting.

(y) **Democratization: Theory and Practice.** Democratic theory and democratisation; theories of regime change; the establishment, stabilisation, and breakdown of democratic regimes; interactionist, structuralist, and discourse-based interpretations; economic and sociological correlates; issues of comparative methodology; definitions, concepts, and cultural relativism; constitutions, institutional design, and party organisation; democratisation and international politics. **Practice.** Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of the main analytical issues arising from contemporary democratization experiences in at least two of the following clusters of countries: China (including Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan); East-Central Europe (post-Communist countries excluding the former USSR); Middle America (i.e. Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean); South America; South Asia; Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa); Southern Europe (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey); Sub-Saharan Africa (other than Southern Africa); ex-USSR states. Note. Candidates taking options to study the politics of any of these areas, in addition to this paper, will be required to show knowledge of at least one other region.

(2) **The Political and Ethical Thought of Plato and Aristotle** Candidates are required to show knowledge of the major writings on ethics and politics in the works of both Plato and Aristotle. Questions may also be asked on the ethical and political thought of the Pre-Socratics.

(aa) **Political Theories from Machiavelli to Burke** The authors to be studied will include: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Burke. Candidates are required to show knowledge of at least three authors.

(ab) **Political Theories of Hegel and Marx** In addition to a knowledge of the original texts, candidates will be expected to show some knowledge of later developments in Hegelian and Marxist ideas, and to be able to discuss the theories of Hegel and Marx in the context of contemporary political thought. Candidates are required to show knowledge of the work of both of these authors.

(ac) **The History of Liberal Thought in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries** The development of liberal thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the study of key thinkers and significant liberal traditions. The paper will include the study of some of the following authors and topics: Bentham and the philosophical radicals, J. S. Mill, the new liberalism, German liberalism (Weber and national liberalism), French solidarism and republicanism, American liberalism (Croly and Dewey), social democracy, Berlin and pluralism, Hayek, and the Rawlsians.

(ad) **Issues in Contemporary Continental European Social and Political Thought** A critical examination of the issues in contemporary European social and political thought: politics and power, state and society, the political subject, ideology and language.

(ae) **Ideologies and Political Traditions in Modern Europe** The conceptual and historical analysis of the principal political ideologies of Europe from the late nineteenth century; theories of ideologies and political traditions; conservatism, liberalism; socialism, communism; anarchism; nationalism; fascism; republicanism.

(af) **Contemporary Political Philosophy** Recent developments in political philosophy.
Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of the work of selected authors working within the analytical tradition of political philosophy, as well as critical ability in dealing with political concepts and theories.

(\textit{ag}) Kant’s Political Philosophy The course will address all aspects of Kant’s political philosophy, including its relation to his moral philosophy. Specifically, it will look at his theory of the formation of the state, the nature of law and constitution, the role of social contract, his rather authoritarian view of political obligation, his conception of citizenship, his theory of property, his theory of international law and international relations, and his cosmopolitanism.’.

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\textbf{Explanatory Notes}
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Clause 2: Polish is now a major EU language. The current regulations exhibit a West European bias and do not acknowledge recent political changes. The addition of Polish reflects the degree’s coverage of Eastern Europe as well as Western Europe.

Clause 8: Reordering and renumbering of options required so as to group together comparative and theory courses and to ensure government options are grouped together.

Clauses 4-7: Renumbering of options.

Clauses 1 and 3: ensuring the submission requirements are stated precisely and unambiguously. References to the \textit{Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics} are a response to student feedback on duplication between the NoG and the Grey Book, the former of which is declared above to be ‘an elaborated version’ of the latter.

In addition, the requirement to submit a copy of the thesis on CD is a response to recent plagiarism cases. The Department considered a CD to be the most practical method of electronic submission, because: a) it is consistent with other examinations (e.g. the regulations for FHS PPE require an electronic copy and for a number of years submission on CD has been the practice: see the letter to thesis candidates at [http://www.ppe.ox.ac.uk/index.php/ppe-exams](http://www.ppe.ox.ac.uk/index.php/ppe-exams)); and b) since the items are submitted to the Examination Schools, it wouldn’t be appropriate for us to dictate a format of submission that increases their workload. At the moment, students submit two hardcopies in an envelope. This regulation simply means that they will slip a CD in the envelope alongside the hardcopies. The Schools are not currently equipped to accept direct and secure online submission via Weblearn or a similar web mechanism.

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