Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences Board

Approved by chair’s action July 2011

MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government, European Politics and Society)

**Brief note about nature of change:** Introduction of a new optional paper on 'Comparative Presidentialism'.

**Effective date**

With immediate effect

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2011*

**p.574, after l. 39 insert:**

‘Candidates sitting for the MPhil (Comparative Government) and the MPhil (European Politics and Society) may also select the following paper:

*(ag) 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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This change in regulations introduces a new second-year optional paper in ‘Comparative Presidentialism’ available to students undertaking the Comparative Government or European Politics and Society specialism within the MPhil in Politics. The new option responds to a new research stream in comparative politics and to research strengths of the department; introduces students to the analytical value of cross-regional comparison; provides an opportunity for students to share their work cross-regionally, and with students from other departments; and links to a major new ESRC-funded research project in the department. The option will be available to second year students for the first time in Hilary Term 2012.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>