<table>
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<th>Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division</th>
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<td>Social Sciences Board</td>
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<td>Approved by the Teaching Audit Committee on 31 May 2013</td>
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**Title of programme**

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

**Brief note about nature of change:**

Numerous stylistic changes and amendments for the purposes of clarification and elimination of repetition, replacement of schedule of available option modules with a statement outlining that approved modules will be detailed in the student handbook.

**Effective date**

1 October 2013

**Location of change**

Online Regulations

**Detail of change**

1. Online regulations ([http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49)), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, first paragraph, after “The current edition of the” delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics” and insert “Student Handbook”.

2. Online regulations ([http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49)), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(i), after “Research Methods in Political Science” delete “is a compulsory paper for candidates in Comparative Government and in European Politics and Society.” and insert “(Compulsory paper for Comparative Government an European Politics and Society..."
3. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(i), after “as specified in the” delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics” and insert “Student Handbook”.

4. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(i), after “excluding bibliography, on” delete “research design as it bears on some aspect of politics.” and insert “the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis.”.

5. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(i), after “at Oxford or at another Institution.” delete “The essay will normally be related to the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis.”.

6. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(ii), after “Research Methods in Political Theory” delete “is a compulsory paper for candidates in Political Theory.” and insert “(Compulsory paper for Political Theory students only).”.

7. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(ii), after “as specified in the” delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in Politics” and insert “Student Handbook”.

8. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(ii), after “excluding bibliography, on” delete “research design as it bears on some aspect of political theory.” and insert “the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis.”.

9. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section (a)(ii), after “at Oxford or at another Institution.” delete “The essay will normally be related to the subject of the student’s proposed M.Phil. thesis.”.

10. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section Final examination (2), after “Two subject papers.” delete
Candidates sitting for the M.Phil. (Comparative Government) may select two papers from the following list: (e)-(y).

Candidates sitting for the M.Phil. (Political Theory) may select two papers from the following list: (x)-(ag).

Candidates sitting for the M.Phil. (European Politics and Society) may select two papers from the list: (e)-(ag).”

11. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section Final examination (2), after “Two subject papers” insert “taken from the approved list of optional subjects in Politics, as published in the Student Handbook by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee on Monday of first week of Michaelmas Term each academic year to apply to candidates being examined in the Trinity Term of that year. Candidates should note that the Politics subjects available in any particular year will depend on the availability of teaching resources. Not all subjects will be available in every year and restrictions may be placed on the number of candidates permitted to offer certain subjects in any particular year”.

12. Online regulations (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/15-36_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_49), Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society) section, sub-section Final examination (2), after “Supervisors should ensure that applications are submitted as early as possible so that if approval is not given, the candidate has sufficient time to choose an alternative.” delete

“(e) The History and Politics of South Asia The political history, political sociology, political institutions, and political economy of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh) since 1947; the state, political institutions, party politics, and ‘movement’ politics; conditions for democracy; the politics of gender, class, caste, religion, and ethnicity; the evolution of political ideologies; social organisation, culture and identities as they bear on politics, the politics of ‘development’.

(f) Politics in Africa Political action, representation, and institutions in African countries through comparative perspectives: generalisations and exceptionalisms; analytic approaches; forms of colonial rule; African nationalism; one-party systems; military regimes; multi-party systems; politics of democracy; parties and elections; conditions of democracy; politics of economic reforms; politics of health and HIV/AIDS; land reform and agricultural policies; politics of elites; workers and trade unions; rural societies and politics; ethnicities and politics; religions and politics; gender and politics.

(g) The Politics of Transition in Central and Eastern Europe This course chooses a comparative and thematic approach to explore the politics of transition in Central and Eastern Europe (broadly defined). The key themes this course analyses are: the dynamics of the collapse of socialism; theories of transition and consolidation; the role of agency, leadership and institutional design; political and social mobilisation; EU accession and EU conditionality; nation- and state- building (including federal break-
up, ethnic conflicts and minority protection); and migration patterns.

(h) Political Sociology As specified for the M.Phil. in Sociology.

(i)-(p) The Politics and Government of Major States

(i) The Politics and Government of the UK;

(j) The Politics and Government of the USA;

(k) The Politics and Government of France;

(l) The Politics and Government of Russia;

(m) The Politics and Government of Germany;

(n) The Politics and Government of Italy;

(o) The Politics and Government of China;


Candidates will be expected to show a thorough knowledge of the recent political development of the country chosen, of its political structure, and of the manner in which its system of government operates. They must be able to read the available literature in a language of the country selected, except in the cases of Russia, China and Japan.

(q) The Politics of Democracy in Latin America Definitions of democracy in Latin America; the conditions for stable democratic regimes; the breakdown of democratic regimes; transitions from authoritarian regimes; parties and electoral systems; political participation; political ideologies; the role of constitutions in theory and practice; public administration; policy making in democratic systems; civil-military relations; the international context of democracy.

(r) Executive Government Candidates will explore generic and comparative themes in executive government and bureaucracy using a range of analytical perspectives. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the politics of bureaucracy in at least one country and to show awareness of the basic literature in the comparative study of bureaucracy.

(s) European International History since 1945 The origins of the Cold War in Europe; institution-formation (including Council of Europe, NATO, European Communities, CSCE); Europe in East-West relations; Germany, France, and Britain (impact of war, decolonisation; intra-European relations and relations with the superpowers; values, priorities, and historical memory); the emergence and character of European Community/Union external policies; the causes and consequences of the end of the Cold War in Europe.

(t) Comparative Political Economy Candidates will be introduced to some of the major topics related to the comparative political economy of industrialised democracies and will be encouraged to question whether the political relationships among individuals,
institutions and the economy are different in different countries. Topics will include the relationship between social coalitions and politics; the nature of corporatism; the existing diversity among advanced market economies; the influence of unions and wage bargaining institutions; the reasons why some countries have comprehensive welfare states and whether the welfare state is declining; the impact of government partisanship and electoral factors on economic policy; the political causes and effects of inequality; the political and economic importance of globalisation; and the relationship between democracy and economic growth.

(u) The Political Economy of Inequality and Democracy This course will introduce MPhil students to some of the major topics related to the political economy of inequality, politics, institutions and redistribution. It is organized around a framework that emphasizes the relationship between equality and efficiency, the nature of inequality, the political causes and consequences of redistribution, and the relationship between inequality and democracy. Through reading, writing of discussion papers, and seminar participation, students will develop the relevant analytical skills to understand the relationships affecting individual preferences, political and economic institutions, and policy outcomes.

(v) Comparative European Parliaments Candidates will explore generic and comparative themes in European legislative politics, at both national and EU level, using a range of analytical perspectives. Candidates are expected to be familiar with legislative politics in at least two European states and the EU level as well as to show awareness of the basic literature in the comparative study of legislatures.

(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.

(z) 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.

(f) 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.

(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.

Candidates sitting for the M.Phil. (Comparative Government) and the M.Phil (European Politics and Society) may also select the following paper:

(ah) 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>
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<tr>
<td>Please note: the online version of the regulations for this programme have been used in order to make the changes above, due to the printed 2012 regulations being out of date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clause 1: Amendment to reflect that the notes of guidance documentation has been renamed to the ‘Student Handbook’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 2: Stylistic change to conform with the wording for papers b, c and d in this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 3: Refer to notes for clause 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 4: Elimination of repetition, further clarification of the requirements of the Research Design Essay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clause 5: Text moved to a more logical place within the paragraph – wording to the effect of this entry now features earlier in section (a)(i) (see clause 4).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clause 6: Stylistic change to conform with the wording for papers b, c and d in this section.</td>
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<td>Clause 7: Amendment to reflect that the notes of guidance documentation has been renamed to the ‘Student Handbook’.</td>
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<td>Clause 8: Elimination of repetition, further clarification of the requirements of the Research Design Essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clause 9: Text moved to a more logical place within the paragraph – wording to the effect of this entry now features earlier in section (a)(ii) (see clause 8).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clauses 10-12: These clauses remove the detailed schedule of options available to students and replaces it with a sentence indicating to students that they should refer to the Student Handbook for the full list of available/approved option subjects for a given year, and makes clear that not all options will be available every year. As is already practiced with other departments, this change will allow the department to respond more effectively to a variety of situations that may hinder the availability of options, such as staffing changes/absences, etc.</td>
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