

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved at the meeting of Teaching Audit Committee on 27/02/15

Title of Programme

MSc Political Theory Research

Brief note about nature of change: minor amendment to text

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2015

For first examination from 2015-16

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

Detail of change

1. P692, I36 – P693, I26:

A candidate for the M.Sc. in Political Theory Research shall follow ~~for twelve months~~ a course of instruction in Political Theory Research for twelve months. Each candidate must pass the M.Sc. Examination at the end of Trinity Term in the two compulsory papers. Each ~~candidate student~~ must also submit a thesis during the Long Vacation.

Compulsory papers:

~~(1a)~~ *Theory of Politics*

(Compulsory paper taken from the ~~M Phil~~M.Phil. in Politics)

A critical examination of political concepts and theories, including social concepts and theories with political relevance. The paper is assessed by a single three hour written

examination at the end of Trinity Term.

(b2) Research Methods in Political Theory

(Compulsory paper taken from the MPhil M.Phil. in Politics)

The paper is assessed in the following way. The candidate must submit:

~~(i) Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Student Handbook, and will also produce a~~ Research Design ~~Proposal Essay~~ of between ~~4000~~4,000 and ~~6000~~6,000 words, excluding bibliography, on research design as it bears on the subject of the ~~candidate's student's~~ proposed M.Sc. thesis. Two ~~hard~~ copies of the Research Design- ~~Proposal Essay~~, together with a copy on CD ~~or USB~~, 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 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 training coursework. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Student Handbook. Candidate who fail elements of the research methods training coursework are normally permitted to submit a second time (or, if the coursework is assessed by a test, to resit that test) by a date specified in the Student Handbook.

The Thesis

~~(e) A~~ Each candidate must submit a thesis of not more than 15,000 words, excluding bibliography. Two hard copies, together with a copy on CD ~~or USB~~, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the last Friday of August following the end of Trinity Full 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 thesis must be clearly marked with the candidate's examination number, the title of the thesis and the words MSc M.Sc. in Political Theory Research. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.

For a candidate to pass the degree of MSc in Political Theory Research, the candidate must pass: the Research Methods in Political Theory paper (all elements of coursework and the Research Design Proposal), the Theory of Politics paper, and the thesis.

~~Candidates must present themselves for viva voce examination when requested by the examiners.~~ The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

Explanatory Notes

Minor revisions to text for clarification