WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
VANDERBILT POLITICAL SCIENCE: WHO WE ARE

- Five subfields
  - American, Comparative, IR, Theory, Methods

- Research centers
  - CSDI
  - LAPOP
  - RIPS
Coursework (2-3 years)
RA/TA work
Summer research/methods/language training
Dissertation
Faculty-student collaborations
Visiting speakers/job talks
Professionalization workshops
Publications seminar
Peer training
### Ideal timeline for our PhD Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Work for faculty member, review coursework, acquire additional training</td>
<td>Study for comprehensive exams. Do independent work.</td>
<td>Complete and defend prospectus. Write dissertation</td>
<td>Complete two chapters of dissertation. Prepare job market packet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Year 1**: Summer - Work on coursework, review coursework, do independent work.
- **Year 2**: Study for comprehensive exams.
- **Year 3**: Complete and defend prospectus. Write dissertation.
- **Year 4**: Write dissertation. Earn PhD!
- **Year 5**: Job market. Finish dissertation.
WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE?

- 48 didactic hours, or 16 courses in 3 years
  + 24 Independent research hours (years 4 & 5)
  = 72 total credit hours for the PhD

- Methods: Research Design + Stats I (required)
- First field: core course + 2 electives (min.)
- Second field: core course + 2 electives (min.)
- Third field: core course + 1 elective
  - Methods: Research Design and Stats I and II don’t count towards Methods 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} field requirements
  - Methods can only be 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} field
Course Timeline

- Year 1, first semester
  - 4 courses: Stats I and 3 electives
- Year 1, second semester
  - 3 courses: Stats II and 2 electives
  - RA/TA work
- Year 2, fall semester
  - 3 courses: 3 electives
  - RA/TA work
- Year 2, spring semester
  - 3 courses: 3 electives
  - RA/TA work
  - 2nd Year Review
- Year 3, August (or January)
  - Comprehensive exams

- Year 3
  - 3 electives (over Fall and Spring semesters)
  - Pre-dissertation research units
  - Defend dissertation prospectus
  - Preparation of grant proposals
- Year 4
  - Dissertation research units
  - Field research
  - Prepare for job market
- Year 5
  - Dissertation research/write-up
  - Job market
Fall 2016 PSCI Grad. Seminars

• American Politics
  • PSCI 8830 – Studies in American Politics (Oppenheimer)
  • PSCI 8370 – Topics in American Politics: The Presidency (Lewis)
  • PSCI 8325 – Political Economy (You)
• Comparative Politics
  • PSCI 8310 – Studies in Comparative Analysis (Thachil)
  • PSCI 8314 – Comparative Political Parties (Lupu)
  • PSCI 8370 – Comparative Political Economy (Clayton)
• Political Theory
  • PSCI 8370 – Special Topics: Climate Change and Justice (Ackerly)
• Methods
  • PSCI 8356 – Statistics for Political Research I (Mo)
  • PSCI 8358 – Special Topics in Methodology: Statistics III (You)
  • PSCI 8360 – Topics in Formal Theory and Modeling (Kenkel)
  • PSCI 2256 – Political Strategy and Game Theory (Wiseman – UG and G)
• Publications Workshop (1 unit) (Hiskey)
WHAT DO I DO AS AN RA/TA?

- 20 hours/week
- Assigned to a faculty member
  - Assignments based on faculty and grad. student preferences
  - TA: attend class, grade, meet with students, occasional lecture
  - RA: perform various tasks to assist in faculty member’s research
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

- August or January of the 3rd year
  - 1st field: Written exam + Oral exam
  - 2nd field: Written exam + Oral exam if needed

- For each field exam
  - Three 8-hour blocks of time, open-book/open-notes
  - 1 question, 10-double spaced pages each 8-hour block
JOB MARKET

- 2 chapters of the dissertation
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Research statement
- Teaching statement
- CV
  - Publications with faculty
  - Solo-work under review
    - Conference papers
  - Grants
  - Awards
RULES, REGULATIONS, ETC.

- Department website
  - http://www.vanderbilt.edu/political-science/

- Department’s Graduate Study Handbook

- The Graduate School Catalog
  - http://www.vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/grad/Grado1.html
RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY

- The Writing Studio
  - http://www.vanderbilt.edu/writing/
- Center for Teaching
  - http://cft.vanderbilt.edu/
MORE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY

- Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
  - Professionalization workshops
- Faculty: Mentors/Advisors
- Senior graduate students
- Staff
- PSCI grad. student peer network
- Psychological and Counseling Center

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/pcc/