

SUBSTANTIVE AREA: Political Sociology

COMMITTEE: Samuel Valenzuela, Erin McDonnell and Ann Mische

DATE: June 5, 2017

1. Students should prepare a reading list with major books and articles in the field. It should include a section devoted to classic works, ranging from Aristotle to Marx, Weber and Pareto. It should also include a set of more contemporary classics, such as the writings of Dahl, Linz, Rokkan, Duverger, Miliband, Mann, Finner, and others. The list should then select from six to eight subfields within the larger field, such as democratization, political parties, state formation, intellectuals and politics, labor movements and politics, social movements and politics, the morphology of different political regimes, the study of elections and electorates, etc. The list will be discussed by the student and members of the committee to the full satisfaction of all.
2. The committee will prepare questions for the exam. The committee may decide to have an obligatory question, but normally the student will have a choice of questions to respond from a list of about seven or eight, that the committee will submit. The questions will be given to the student on the day of the examination. Candidates must answer four questions in total.
3. The committee will assess the questions as a pass or a fail. However, it will on occasion also assign a "pass with distinction" to exceptionally good examinations.
4. The committee may decide that the examination merits, overall, a "pass" even if one or even two questions are not well crafted. The committee may, however, decide that the student needs to rewrite one of these questions or a new question in the same general subfield. It may also ask the candidate to write an essay on a particular topic in lieu of writing a new question in an exam format.