

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Political Sociology is a broad sub-field in our discipline that focuses on the study of how the exercise of power occurs both informally and institutionally in both civil societal and state/governmental arenas. The sub-field is informed by general sociological theory, and draws as well from the contributions of political scientists, economists, historians and anthropologists to varying degrees depending on the specific research interests and topics its practitioners pursue.

Exam preparation will begin with the student establishing a reading list of major books and articles with a broadly construed political sociological content in consultation with the faculty members of the examination committee. The list should have three sections. The first should contain classic and other major works of broad impact in the discipline, and the others should focus on readings in two major sub-topics that are germane to the candidate's research interests. Examples of such subfields are state and regime formation and breakdown, political parties and elections, intellectuals and politics, the modalities of power in civil organizations, the military in politics, the characteristics of state bureaucracies, social and/or labor movements and politics, and so on. The total length of the reading list will follow the guidelines of the department's policies for the graduate program (i. e., a maximum of about 2,500 pages). The examination list may of course draw items from the courses offered by the department (and others) that relate to Political Sociology.

During the course of their readings into the material, the candidate should schedule sessions with members of the committee to discuss issues of interest and/or clarification.

The format of the exam will follow the Department's guidelines. The Department's administrative assistant for graduate studies will send the questions to the candidate on the appointed day and time for the beginning of the exam. Candidates will be required to answer three questions of their choice from a list of such questions prepared by the examination committee. While writing their answers they may consult hand written (or font 11 machine composed) notes consisting of thoughts on the readings—not direct quotations. These notes should be confined, however, to one side of just two U. S. letter sized pages. Formal citations will not be required: it suffices to mention the names of the authors under discussion. The exam period will last six hours, after which the administrative assistant will retrieve the examination copy.

The committee will discuss the results of the examination and inform the candidate whether it merits a "pass" or a "fail" within a maximum of two weeks.