Political Science Phd Expectations and Learning Objectives

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
YORK UNIVERSITY

	Degree-Level Expectation	Program Learning Objectives	Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment
	This degree extends the skills associated with the Master's degree and is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:	By the end of this program, students will be able to:	

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Depth and breadth of knowledge	A thorough understanding of a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of their academic discipline or area of professional practice including, where appropriate, relevant knowledge outside of the field /or discipline	› develop a critical understanding of the leading scholarship in the discipline of Political Science focusing on a major and minor field from the program's five fields: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Women and Politics; and in unique circumstances a specialized minor › recognize and offer critical assessments of key theoretical and methodological issues and debates in the defining scholarship of two of the five fields, and in unique circumstances, a specialized minor with respect to the specific field's historical, social, cultural, political, and economic contexts and implications › demonstrate knowledge of diversities such as race, class, gender, sexuality, ability as applied to topics taught in political science courses and to democratic governance › demonstrate an ability to link academic knowledge to political and social issues locally and globally	› courses (assignments, presentations and participation) › program seminars › colloquia › workshops – career and teaching › teaching assistantships (normally) › graduate assistantships (normally) › qualifying exams in major and minor fields › language or cognate skill requirement › dissertation proposal workshop › dissertation proposal › dissertation › dissertation defense

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Research & Scholarship	• The ability to conceptualize, design, and implement research for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the research design or methodology in light of unforeseen problems; • The ability to make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields, sometimes requiring new methods; and • The ability to produce original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and to merit publication	• provide an advanced critique of the research strategies and logics employed in core texts in the relevant fields and specific texts in the student's individual research project • devise a research question that advances knowledge and understanding at the forefront of the discipline scholarship and field scholarship • conduct advanced library research to locate literatures relevant to a research question • assess and critique literatures relevant to a research question • identify gaps in literatures relevant to a research question • conceptualize and design a research problematic containing a program of research to address a research question • conduct a research project involving appropriate data collection and analysis strategies • be well-versed in research ethics issues and abide by York University's ethics protocols	• courses (assignments, presentations and participation) • program seminars • colloquia • workshops – career and teaching • teaching assistantships (normally) • graduate assistantships (normally) • qualifying exams in major and minor fields • language or cognate skill requirement • dissertation proposal workshop • dissertation proposal • dissertation • dissertation defense

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Level of application of knowledge	The capacity to: › Undertake pure and/or applied research at an advanced level; and › Contribute to the development of academic or professional skills, techniques, tools, practices, ideas, theories, approaches, and/or materials	› contribute to the analysis of political problems with the intent of addressing the barriers that separate politics from social life and the university from the community › contribute to the analysis of political and social issues, locally and globally › identify gaps in existing literature on specific issues or topics, articulate an original research question to address this gap, and build an appropriate theoretical and/or methodological framework that is informed by relevant literature › identify the methodological / ethical / epistemological issues raised by a research question and build a framework to address these › identify significance of findings / results (contribution to body of theoretical and/or methodological knowledge; new practices / techniques, policy implications) and disseminate these through appropriate means – paper, conference presentation, public presentation, dissertation, teaching › apply teaching skills developed through conducting tutorials, leading discussion, presenting lecture course material, marking assignments including essays and exams	› courses (assignments, presentations and participation) › program seminars › colloquia › workshops – career and teaching › teaching assistantships (normally) › graduate assistantships (normally) qualifying exams in major and minor fields › language or cognate skill requirement › dissertation proposal workshop › dissertation proposal › dissertation › dissertation defense

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Professional capacity/ autonomy	›› The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal and largely autonomous initiative in complex situations ›› The intellectual independence to be academically and professionally engaged and current; ›› the ethical behaviour consistent with academic integrity and the use of appropriate guidelines and procedures for responsible conduct of research; and ›› The ability to evaluate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.	›› acquire time management skills within graduate courses in order to complete readings and assignments ›› present references and bibliographic information in a standardized format ›› select a supervisory committee for comprehensive exams and for a dissertation ›› acquire the skills to compile a professional CV, and present self and work in a professional manner ›› demonstrate familiarity with appropriate professional practices – meeting deadlines, timely responses to professional communications, long term planning ›› write professional articles of publishable quality ›› abide by Tri-Council ethics policies ›› demonstrate an ability to work independently and in teams ›› apply teaching skills developed through conducting tutorials, leading discussion, presenting lecture course material, marking ›› assignments including essays and exams	›› courses (assignments, presentations and participation) ›› program seminars ›› colloquia ›› workshops – career and teaching ›› teaching assistantships (normally) ›› graduate assistantships (normally) qualifying exams in major and minor fields ›› language or cognate skill requirement ›› dissertation proposal workshop ›› dissertation proposal ›› dissertation ›› dissertation defense

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Level of communication skills	The ability to communicate complex and/ or ambiguous ideas, issues and conclusions clearly.	› formulate an argument or presentation in relation to its expected audience's interests and level of knowledge › demonstrate an ability to present complex issues and concepts to undergraduate students during undergraduate seminars. › demonstrate originality and creativity in (re)defining specific theoretical approaches and/or methodologies as well as the political, social, cultural and economical implications within specific fields of scholarship › develop writing projects, including course papers, course presentations, dissertation proposal and dissertation, that involve analyses of ambiguities and formulation of complex ideas › participate in advanced oral discussion/debate with peers in a seminar setting › present an advanced seminar discussion/debate on a specified topic › receive, give and respond to feedback constructively, including resolving conflicting feedback › defend an original, substantial research project › apply teaching skills developed through conducting tutorials, leading discussion, presenting lecture course material, marking › assignments including essays and exams	› courses (assignments, presentations and participation) › program seminars › colloquia › workshops – career and teaching › teaching assistantships (normally) › graduate assistantships (normally) qualifying exams in major and minor fields › language or cognate skill requirement › dissertation proposal workshop › dissertation proposal › dissertation › dissertation defense

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Awareness of limits of knowledge	An appreciation of the limitations of one's own work and discipline, of the complexity of knowledge and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines.	›be familiar with the history of political science as a discipline, particularly the specific major and minor fields and recognize the discipline and the fields' paradigm shifts ›develop and practice an awareness of positionality and power regarding research ethics, e.g. in relation to social location, knowledge production, and engagement with diverse communities ›show an attentiveness to the global aspects of questions and problems in politics ›examine issues of democratic governance and democratic citizenship and leadership in related disciplines ›integrate, where applicable, an interdisciplinary perspective in terms of fundamental questions, epistemologies, paradigms, and concepts	›courses (assignments, presentations and participation) ›program seminars ›colloquia ›workshops – career and teaching ›teaching assistantships (normally) ›graduate assistantships (normally) qualifying exams in major and minor fields ›language or cognate skill requirement ›dissertation proposal workshop ›dissertation proposal ›dissertation ›dissertation defense