

Department of Politics and Public Administration

Syllabuses for MPhil/PhD 4-year Programmes

(For students registered in or after September 2024)

POLI6002 Research Methods in Politics and Public Administration

This course aims to help students understand the specific requirements for conducting research in politics and public administration. Specifically, it prepares students for their dissertation research by focusing on the logic and strategies of inquiry that guide social research. While drawing attention to the importance of the building blocks of social research, the course also highlights the criteria of good research. It is hoped that by the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the research process, from the conceptualization of the research question to the inference of the research results. Assessment will be in the form of written assignments and presentations. (100% coursework)

POLI6003 Research Methods in Politics and Public Administration II

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the methods in political science relevant to their research. Students will be instructed to attend one undergraduate course, or one course in a postgraduate taught course programme, or a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate courses from the department, or a special readings course with teaching staff in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, as prescribed by the supervisor(s) and/or the Chairman of the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee. Students will also be required to do further guided readings and/or attend extra tutorials. Assessment will be in the form of assignments at the postgraduate level. (100% coursework)

POLI6050 Special Seminar in Political Science

This course exposes students to a specially selected area of research or a set of selected issues in politics and public administration. Through different theoretical and methodological approaches, students will examine how knowledge is produced, the limits of the knowledge produced, and the productive directions for further research. Students may attend one undergraduate course, or one course in a postgraduate taught course programme, or a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate courses from the department, or a special readings course with teaching staff in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, as prescribed by the supervisor(s) and/or the Chairman of the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee. (100% coursework)

POLI6051 Special Topics in Politics and Public Administration

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the subfields in political science relevant to their research. Students will be instructed to attend one undergraduate course, or one course in a postgraduate taught course programme, or a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate courses from the department, or a special readings course with teaching staff in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, as prescribed by the supervisor(s) and/or the Chairman of the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee. Students will also be required to do further guided readings and/or attend extra tutorials. Assessment will be in the form of written assignments at the postgraduate level. (100% coursework)

POLI6053. Advanced Seminar in International Politics

This seminar exposes students to the canon and cutting edge of theory and research in international politics. We will cover core topics, such as strategy, signaling, and domestic-international dynamics. The core topics not only represent the central coordinates of international relations (IR), but also make deeper connections to other subfields such as comparative politics and political economy, and to other social sciences such as sociology and economics. Beyond the core topics, we will also cover topics of research interest to students, as chosen by students. This seminar is for students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study in a small class setting. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions. (100% coursework)

Updated on 9 Dec 2025