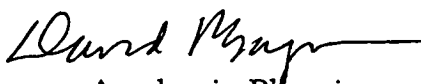


**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Senate

**From:** D. Gagan, Chair   
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

**Subject:** Department of Political Science -  
Graduate Curriculum Revisions

(SGSC Meeting Feb. 17, 1997)  
(SCAP Reference: SCAP 97-18)

**Date:** March 14, 1997

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Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

**Motion:**

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.97 - 40, the curriculum revisions in the Department of Political Science."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Alison Watt, Director  
Secretariat Services

From: B.P. Clayman  
Vice-President Research/  
Dean of Graduate Studies

Subject: Graduate Curriculum  
Changes, Department of  
Political Science

Date: February 20, 1997

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The deletion of oral field examinations at the MA level in Political Science was approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, at its Meeting on February 17, 1997, and is now being forwarded to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning for approval.



B.P. Clayman  
Vice-President Research/  
Dean of Graduate Studies

mm/  
attach.

For Information:

Acting under delegated authority of Senate, the Senate Graduate Studies Committee approved the following:

Revision of the Calendar entry for the MA Program in Political Science

**COURSE ALTERATION AND RATIONALE**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FROM: *Current Calendar Entry***

**MA Program**

The degree program may be completed in one of two ways. In the thesis option students are required to complete four graduate courses and to write and defend a thesis of approximately 25,000 words length. In the course intensive option students are required to complete six courses, and to undertake two field examinations successfully. Under both degree options students are required to take POL 801.

For students who take the thesis option, it is required that they take two of their remaining three courses from at least two of the five fields of study offered by the department: political theory; Canadian government and politics; comparative government and politics; international relations; and public administration and public policy.

Students who undertake the course intensive option must identify one of these five fields as their major area of concentration and a second area as their minor field of specialization. Examinations will then be conducted for each student in both the major and minor fields of concentration.

The field examinations will be set by a committee of no fewer than two faculty members from each field. Field examination committees for students will be established by the Graduate Program Committee at the beginning of each academic year. Each field examination committee will develop in collaboration with the Graduate Program Committee appropriate reading lists for students. The field examination committee will schedule, conduct and evaluate a three hour written examination and an oral defence of the written answers of not more than one hour's duration. Normally all students enrolled in the course intensive degree option will complete their examinations by the end of their third semester.

Any student who fails one of the field examinations, and one only, will be permitted to take a second attempt at passing the failed field examination.

**TO: *Proposed Calendar Entry***

**MA Program**

The degree program may be completed in two ways: through a course intensive option or a thesis option. Students are admitted to the course intensive M.A. program and require the approval of the Chair of the Graduate Program to transfer to the thesis stream.

To fulfill the requirements of the course intensive stream, students must complete Politics 801 plus five additional courses from at least two of the five Fields of Study offered by the Department. Students also must pass two written field examinations: one in their major and one in their minor Field of Study.

Upon enrolment, students are assigned a two-member Advisory Committee which shall have the responsibility for determining, in consultation with the student, the projected program of study and for ensuring that the student fulfills all degree requirements. The Advisory Committee must approve all course choices and the selection of the student's major and minor Fields of Study.

The Advisory Committee shall serve as the nucleus of the field examination committee. In consultation with the student, the Advisory Committee will be expanded to include additional examiners if necessary.

Any student who fails one of the field examinations, and one only, will be given one opportunity to retake the failed field examination.

Students who wish to transfer to the thesis stream must have the approval of the Graduate Chair. To be considered for admission to the thesis stream, students must submit first to the thesis Supervisory Committee and then to the appropriate Field Committee a thesis proposal outlining a brief summary of the topic, its relevance, the methodology to be followed in the investigation and a chapter by chapter outline of the thesis, a timetable for thesis completion and a select bibliography. The thesis proposal must be approved by the thesis Supervisory Committee and by the appropriate Field Committee.

Students in the thesis stream must complete four courses: Politics 801 plus three additional courses from at least two of the five Fields of Study offered by the Department. Students also must write a thesis normally 18,750-25,000 words in length (plus bibliography) and defend it in an oral defence.

#### RATIONALE:

We have revised the calendar description of our MA program to make it clearer and more in conformity with the actual practice in our department.

Most of the changes are editorial. For students in the course intensive stream, we have clarified the functions of the Advisory Committee, including its responsibility to serve as the nucleus of the student's examining committee. For students who wish to transfer to the thesis stream, we have clarified the procedures.

In addition to these editorial changes, there is one substantive change. We have eliminated any reference to oral field examinations for M.A. students. We believe that at the M.A. level, six courses plus two three-hour written field examinations are sufficient and that there is no need for oral examinations.