

Department of Political Science
Political Methodology Field Statement

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The field of Political Methodology has streams: a quantitative methods stream, and a formal theory stream. Taking the field means completing one of these streams, as detailed below.

Political Methodology Field Requirements:

(a) **Basic Training.** The following methodology classes are required of all students in the Ph.D. program regardless of field:

- i. PS 350A - Political Methodology 1
- ii. PS 350B - Political Methodology 2

In some cases, students who have taken comparable classes prior to entering the Ph.D. program, or wish to take comparable classes elsewhere in the University, may be waived from these requirements at the discretion of the DGS and/or the convenor of the methodology field. In addition, students taking Methods as a major field are required to take PS 352 (Game Theory) or Econ 160 (Game Theory and Economic Applications).

(b) **Advanced Classes.** Three advanced classes in the student's designated stream:

i. In the quantitative methods stream, these include (but are not limited to), PS 350C (Political Methodology III), PS 353 (Methods workshop), PS 354F (Applied Bayesian Statistics), and advanced classes in econometrics and statistics. Examples of advanced classes in the Statistics Department include (but are not limited to):

- 211 Statistical Methods in Meta-Analysis
- 217 Introduction to Stochastic Processes
- 261 Analysis of Discrete Data in Epidemiology
- 262 Regression, Prediction and Survival Analysis
- 306 Methods for Applied Statistics
- 310 Theory of Probability
- 315 Modern Applied Statistics
- 324 Multivariate Analysis
- 353 Spatial Statistics
- 354 Bootstrapping
- 362 Monte Carlo Sampling
- 372 Nonparametrics

Econometrics classes such as Econ 270 and Econ 271 count as advanced classes.

ii. In the formal theory stream, the advanced classes include (but are not limited to):

- the three course GSB 351 political economy sequence
- Econ 203N (Core economic, game theory and industrial organization)
- Econ 281 (Economics of uncertainty)
- Econ 282 (Contracts, information and incentives)
- Econ 296 (Game theory and economic applications)

Students should consult with the field convener for advice and approval of classes not specifically mentioned above. Students should carefully plan which advanced classes they will take and when; obviously, the Political Science faculty does not control the availability or scheduling of classes outside the Department. Note that some of these advanced classes outside the Department may have pre-requisites (e.g., 200 level classes in Economics usually require Econ 202N, but sometimes particular instructors may waive this requirement).

(c) **Field Exam.** A qualifying exam will be written specific to each stream. Students should inform the methods field convenor that they intend to take the exam well in advance; this allows the faculty to co-ordinate and to tailor an exam to the student's stream and particular course of study.