Agenda- PhD Committee meeting
February 20, 2018
11:00-12:30 PM
TH 403

1. Updates
   a. Admissions update
      - All students on the shortlist are good candidates, could be successful in program.
      - Faculty comments are taken very seriously.
   b. Careers Ph.D. group
      - Four students attended. They are interested in exploring the job market in various countries, inviting speakers to campus, and planning a professional workshop with John and Monique.

2. New business:
   a. Nominations for Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship and Graduate School Medal
   b. Methods requirement- indep study acceptable or with conditions?
      - Students have requested a methods independent study in the case that a relevant methods class is not available.
      - This allowance may result in more independent studies rather than enrolling in a full course. The independent study does not provide the same experience.
      - There are summer research methods classes available with other programs.
      - We can call out methods classes on the Ph.D. Courses site.
      - Decision: The methods requirement must be met with two proper courses. In the case that a methods class is not available, the Ph.D. committee will consider an exception.
   c. Bridge lab- who to invite?
      - History, Political Science, Geography, LSJ.
      - Ask presenters to invite their students and colleagues to Bridge Lab.
   d. Field seminar- brainstorm issues, concerns, ideals
      - Classes are open to Ph.D. and MA students.
      - There are some students from other departments enrolled.
      - What are the issues?
        o Ph.D. student enrollment may be low
        o Students or faculty may identify with only one or none of the fields
        o The fields are very broad
        o What is the purpose of these fields? What are the skills? Is this a social science theory class? What common ground should the students share?
o Provides conceptual tools and scholarly discussion about broad topics.
o The categories are made up by the Jackson School, and it would be impossible to create categories that suited all faculty.
o We could spend more time explaining the field seminars on the website.
o How often should these classes be taught?
o How does the international studies association categorize? How do other programs view these fields?
o How should students use theory?
o We shouldn’t feel the burden of teaching all of the above in one class, it can be shared among other courses and in advising.
o Declining enrollments is an issue. The interest in international studies or international relations vs. STEM is an important conversation.
o Does the field seminar provide enough information to be tested on in the general exams?
o If the general exams do not relate to the field seminars, then do students have to take the course before their exams?
o Prospective students find the field seminars useful to understand the Jackson School.
o There are only 4 10-week quarters before general exams.
o What is International Studies?
The conversation will be continued next meeting.