

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

- Nominees for Presidential Dissertation Fellowship: Deep Pal and Patrick Thomsen. Nominee for the Grad School Medal: Emily Willard.

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?
 - Ph.D. student enrollment may be low
 - Students or faculty may identify with only one or none of the fields
 - The fields are very broad
 - 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.