

Profile of Academic Discipline: Political Science

Two subfields are detailed in this profile:

1. Political history and theory
2. Political institutions, processes, and technologies

Subfield code:

5.5.1. Political history and theory

Fields of research:

The history of political science as an independent field of research. Periods in the history of political science, schools, and approaches. Influence of myths, utopian and ideological views on the evolution of political science and thinking. Proto-scientific imprint on the development of political science. Key factors in the development of respective schools, approaches, and political theories. Specific aspects of political analysis of various countries and regions. History of social and political studies in Russia: fields of research, trends, doctrines, theories, concepts, schools, and ideas. Role of doctrines, schools, methodological approaches and field-specific theories in the development of global political science. Analysis of the evolution of conceptual systems and terminology for politics and political science. Analytical and historical conceptual frameworks.

Political history: traditions, political practices, and interpretations. Theory and methodology of historical and political research. Conceptual history of policy development.

Political knowledge, role of theory in political science; political epistemology and structure of political knowledge. Political philosophy and philosophy of politics. Cognitive foundations, procedures and development of new knowledge. Rational and alternative concepts and practice in political thought and science. Role of political theory in the development of global political science. Normative political theories; methodological individualism. Development of arguments in political thought and science.

Concept of the political, feasibility and conditions for emergence and self-implementation of politics; rational and irrational inceptions of politics. Methodological grounds for analyzing spatial and temporal aspects of political processes. Geopolitical and bio-political traditions and concepts in political science and thinking. Current methods and approaches to geopolitical, chrono-political and geo/chrono-political analysis. Theoretical

models for political development, change, modernization, transition, progress and regression in politics.

Nature and essence of political power. Functions of political power. Types and variations of political authority. Models for organizing political power and respective interrelations. Political power and influence. Political power and administration/governance. Problems of power in the context of national political traditions.

Authority, power and violence in global affairs. Wars within states and interstate conflicts: normative and empirical theories. International interventions. Correlation between principles of sovereignty and universality of human rights. New regulations.

Conceptual foundations for analyzing state and statehood. Nature and functions of the state and state structures.

Theoretical and methodological foundations for analyzing political institutions. Institutional approaches and variations thereof.

Conceptual foundations for analyzing politics and political processes at various levels of community organization.

Political anthropology. The individual as political subject. Subjects and objects of political action.

Contemporary theories of political culture: conceptual foundations. Identity as phenomenon. Socio-cultural foundations of politics. Legitimation of politics, political values and ideals. Correlation of the ends and means in politics; politics and ethics, politics and rights, politics and economics.

Political psychology: theoretical and methodological measurements. Political thinking and consciousness. Mythological, utopian, and religious forms of political thought. Cognitive styles of political thought. Political archetypes. Political myths.

Theories of political ideology. Types and varieties of political ideologies. Key aspects of “worldview”, “partial/targeted”, and “global” ideologies. Key ideological trends in today’s world. Ideological foundations of policy.

Functions of political science. Fundamental and applied research on politics, specifics of political science as an academic and applied discipline. Discipline-based and inter-disciplinary traditions in political science.

Key trends in research methods for politics and conceptual tools in fundamental and applied political science and “average” theories. Development of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods for analyzing politics. General academic and special traditions in analyzing political phenomena; positivism and post-positivism, behaviouralism, anthropologism, and cognitive instruments of post-modernism (post-structuralism, neo-institutionalism, discourse analysis, etc.)

Methodology and methods of empirical political studies; methods for analysis and modeling of causal relationships. Quantitative methods for political analysis and

evaluation. Mixed (configured) methods for researching politics. Qualitative comparative analysis. Mixed (integrated) methods for analyzing political processes. Strategies for thick descriptions. Qualitative methods for political analysis and interpretation.

Political analysis: structure and typology. Key features of situational and applied political analysis. Importance of theory and methodology in developing applied models for political processes. Key areas of political analysis of countries and regions; global, regional and national traditions in political research. Inter-disciplinary and comparative research in political science. Principles, methods and practice of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research. Knowledge and skills transfer between political science and other disciplines.

Symbolic measurement of political processes. Political semiotics. Approaches and practices for researching political and symbolical (verbal) actions, acts and events, political symbols and images. Methodological foundations and practice for analyzing and interpreting political discourse. Political text. Techniques and approaches for analyzing and interpreting political texts. Methods and practices for substantive interpretation of political phenomena. Hermeneutic approaches and techniques in the history of political thought and contemporary political science.

Political ethics.

Political conflict studies: theoretical foundations, concepts, ideas. Security theories.

Political economy: history and modern trends.

Political ecology. New technologies, climate change and problems of global collective actions as theoretical problems.

Ethno-political studies: conceptual foundations and modern theories. Methodologies, methods and ethno-political research technologies.

Digitalization of politics and digital politics: challenges, strategies and innovation.

Subfield code:

5.5.2. Political institutions, processes, and technologies

Fields of research:

Political systems and their structures. Functions of political systems. Typology of political systems. Models of political systems: comparative analysis. State types and forms and state power. Statehood and state integrity. Status of the state in international relations. Strategies for achieving state status. Hierarchies and hegemony in global policy. National, regional and global political systems. Political influence in the global system. Global and regional organizations: objectives, characteristics and types of activities. Various types of states. Key characteristics of the rule-of-law state. State and civil society. State policy and administration. Types of state policy. Evolution of political systems and state policy in the

Russian Federation throughout the post-Soviet period and its key characteristics. NGOs, finance and business institutions.

Political regimes. Typologies of political regimes. Key characteristics and variation in authoritarian regimes. Preconditions and typical characteristics of totalitarianism. Key aspects and criteria for democracy. Variability in democratic systems. Influence of political regimes on political processes. Transitional regimes: contemporary discourse. Hybrid regimes. Stability and changes in regimes. Evolution of political regimes in contemporary Russia. Regional political regimes in the contemporary world: comparative analysis. Key parameters of regional political regimes: resources of influence, actors, institutions, and strategies for political activities. Evolution of political regimes in Russia's regions. Global and regional systems. Globalization and regionalization.

Key parameters of regional political regimes: resources of influence, actors, institutions, and strategies of political activities. Evolution of political regimes in Russia's regions.

Political institutions and their variability. Institutionalization in politics. Political practices. Formal and informal institutions. Institutions and actors. Quality of institutions.

Types of political organization. Place and role of parties in political relations within a contemporary context. Social grounds and core features of political parties. Functions of political parties. Parties and the state. Structures of political parties. Parties and electoral systems. Ideologies and programmes of political parties. Party-based systems. Interrelation of parties in party-based systems. Russia's contemporary system. Parties and social movements. Parties and other types of approaches to articulating interests. Corporatism. Interest groups. Lobbyism.

Political elites. Characteristics and functions of political elites. Central, regional and local political elites. Interrelation between elites and the masses in politics. Elites and counter-elites. Development and functions of the ruling elite. Political and business elites in power. Political leadership. Functions of political leadership. Leadership styles. Key features in recruitment of political leaders in various political systems. Criteria for effective political leadership. Qualities of political leadership and image of politicians. Elites and leadership in contemporary Russia. Regional political elites: meaning, characteristics and functions. Models for recruiting regional political elites and their mobility. Political orientation and paradigm of activities by regional elites. Regional political leadership: key components, social makeup and dynamics.

Political processes and their variability. Typology of political processes. Socio-cultural foundations of political processes. Gender and politics. Institutional and non-institutional political processes. Politics and law. Authority and opposition in political processes. Shadow subjects in politics. Structural components of political processes, instruments and mechanisms for interrelation and interaction. Levels of political processes. Political processes in global macro-regions. Internal conflicts and problems of stability and

sustainability. Wars within states: civil wars, ethnic conflicts, “new wars”. Aspects and key characteristics of political processes in post-Soviet Russia. Regional political processes: definitions, typology, systems of subjects and objects. Socio-cultural foundations for regional political processes. Aspects and key characteristics of regional political processes in post-Soviet Russia. Models of democratic transition and political transformation of regional communities.

Components and measurements of national power. Organized violence in politics. New political technologies at different levels of community organization. Peacebuilding and post-war reconstruction.

Statics and dynamics in political life: traditional and contemporary types of society. Civilizational and national style of political development. Principles and instruments for reconciling common historical imperatives and demands of national tradition in political development of society. Political transformation and its relationship with drives for modernization in various spheres of public life. Innovative groups in modernization processes. Modernization and democratization. Modernization in the context of globalization. Contradictions and possibilities for modernization in contemporary Russia.

Key concepts of political change in modernity. Cyclical dynamics and trends. Political development in the post-modern context. Theories of political modernization. Theories of democratization. Conceptual trajectories of global political processes: contemporary schools and conceptions. Geopolitical schools and approaches. Concepts for stable development in the context of political science.

Political behaviour and participation in political processes. Articulation, aggregation of interests, factors and forms of mobilization and demobilization. Collective action and mass movements. Political activism. Elections as a form of political participation, their role and functions in public political life. Electoral law. Electoral systems. Types of electoral systems. Models for electoral systems; comparative analysis. Regional electoral systems (territorial entities of the Russian Federation). Factors in electoral performance. Electoral processes. Influence of political regimes in electoral processes. Election campaigns as political mobilization. Technologies in election campaigns. Russia’s electoral system.

Electoral behaviour and processes in regions around the world. Key approaches in analyzing regional elections. Methods for analyzing electoral behaviour and processes at the regional level. Development of technologies in electoral campaigns at the regional level.

Political psychology. Cognitive and emotional aspects of political behaviour. Structures of political values and orientations. Dynamics in political values in contemporary and post-modern processes. Irrational characteristics of politics.

Analysis of functions of political authority, types and variation in political power. Social foundations and resources of political power. Models for organizing political

authority and power interrelations. Political power and administration, contemporary evaluation of innovation policy. Development of contemporary technologies for administration and objectives of democratic control. Approaches to legitimization of power and foundations of power relations.

Political administration. Institutions, forms and mechanisms of political administration, performance criteria. Regulation of national, regional and global development processes. Problems of globalization and domestic policy of states. Risk factors. Methods for analyzing political risks. Key actors in political administration. Contemporary conceptions of political administration. Public politics. Structures and technologies in political administration. Stages, mechanisms and technologies for making political decisions, criteria for effectiveness. Strategic management, political forecasting and design of political institutions and processes. Political administration in contemporary Russia: characteristics, key areas and specifics.

Public politics as a sequence of specific administrative activities in specific fields of political administration. Conceptualization of public politics. Public politics in relation to state and society. The public as the focus of public politics. Actors in public politics. Types of policies: social, industrial, educational, migration, etc. Theory of policy cycles: from framing problems requiring solutions to implementation of decisions and assessments of policy performance. Special theories of public politics.

Internal and external factors of political decision-making. Political decision-making processes. Interests of actors. Domestic and foreign policy strategies. Strategic cultures. Foreign policy discourse.

Political communication. Semiotic and linguistic-semantic structures in political communication. Mass and group political communication. The Internet and politics. Key features and instruments for influencing public opinion. Use of media in contemporary politics. Coordination between media and state authorities, business, influential social and political groups. Media resources in electoral processes. Media and problems of information security. Media and problems of political manipulation. Key features regarding the role of the media in the political life of contemporary Russia. Regional political communication: key features, models and channels.

Symbolic politics. Symbolic coding in political realities and power relations. Actors in symbolic political processes. Symbols, discourse, narratives, myths, and frameworks as instruments for symbolic policy. Construction of group identities as a political process. Political utilization of the past and memory. Discursive construction of political, national, civil, religious, ethnic, regional, professional, gender, etc. identity as a political process. Ideas, norms and identities in national and global politics.

Ideological discourse and mass political communication. Mechanisms and technologies for developing political ideologies. Institutions and technologies for promoting political ideologies in the public sphere. Political ideology and advertising.

Political humor. Technologies and mechanisms for developing image in ideological discourse. Political branding.

Essence of political region. Institutionalization of political regions. Methodologies, methods and technologies used in regional political research. Types of articulation of regional political interests. Types of regional interest groups. Forms and methods for politicization of regional interest groups, regional mobilization. Subnational levels of political authority. Social foundations and resources of subnational politics power. Institutionalization of political authority in regions. Non-public political institutions at the regional level.

Federalism as a political phenomenon. Federations as a form of state structure. Typologies of federations. National models of federalism. Delineation of powers and responsibilities between territorial levels of state power. Regional representation at the national (federal) level. Russian federalism: problems of transformation.

Regional politics. Essence, key interpretations, and structure of regional politics. Strategies for regional politics. Subjects and objects, resources and normative foundations for regional policy. Institutions, methodologies and technologies in regional politics, performance criteria. Regional politics in contemporary Russia.

Local administration and self-administration as a political phenomenon. Municipal and local policy. Models and typologies of local self-administration. Organization of political authority at the local level. Local self-administration and municipal reform in Russia.

Ethno-politics as a subject field. Ethnic groups as political subjects. Key paradigms in analyzing ethnicity. Politicization of ethnicity as a process. Methodology, methods and technologies in ethno-political research. Ethno-political processes: key features, main actors, resources, functions, and typology. Ethno-political mobilization. Nationalism: key approaches to interpretation. Typologies of nationalism and its functions. Ethno-politics in contemporary Russia. Regional and ethno-political conflicts in today's world. Role of regional and ethno-political conflicts in ensuring national security.

Role of religion in politics. Religious organizations. Key religious confessions and modernity. Problems of inter-confessional dialogue. Traditional religions in Russia.

Political culture. Spatial and temporal aspects of political cultures. Types of political culture. Functions of political culture. Traditions, rituals, customs and stereotypes in the structure of political culture. Mental structures of political culture. Myths and prejudices in political culture. Political unconsciousness in the structure of political culture. Memory as a component in political culture. Cultural elements in electoral and protest political activism. Civic spirit as a culture. Regional political culture: essence, development, typology of values and orientations.

Political socialization. Formats and instruments of political identification on an individual level. Agents, states and steps in political socialization. Inter-generational instruments of political and civic socialization.

Bio-politics. Use of research instruments, results and data of life sciences (biology, genetics, ecology, evolutionary theory, etc.) in political research. Analyzing the interrelation between political and biological phenomena, use of biological specifications, and characteristics of individuals and other living beings, their social imprint and roles in politics, including ethological, gender, bio-generation, bio-demographic and other types of analysis. Research on bio-spherical factors in politics, ecological and geopolitical research.

Mechanisms and technologies of traditional and digital politics: forms and levels of organization. Globalization, networkization and digitalization: political aspects.