

Profile of Academic Discipline: Political Science

This profile of Academic Discipline: Political Science is intended for organizing the activities of the Political Science Dissertation Committee at HSE University. These recommendations meet the priorities in academic research conducted at HSE University in Political Science and are tenable due to the qualifications held by the members of the Dissertation Committee.

Three subfields are detailed in this profile offered for review by the Dissertation Committee:

1. Political theory and philosophy of politics; history and methodology of political science;
2. Political institutions and processes, political behaviour and culture;
3. Global politics.

1. Political Theory and Philosophy of Politics; History and Methodology of Political Science

Contents of the subfield. Political theory is a field of political science, which considers the latter's foundational concepts. It serves as the grounds for validating and developing diverse academic concepts, theories and models, which can provide insight into nature, essence, structure, functions and processes of politics as a phenomenon. The focus of political theory shall be on the key features and qualities of political life, internal and external ties and interrelations between political phenomena, their place and functions in the society and the outside world. Political theory studies the organization of political power, the functioning and development of various structures throughout political space and time, as well as the specifics of political thinking and other important aspects.

Philosophy of politics is a subfield of academic research aimed at understanding and interpreting political processes and methods for studying them. As a subfield, it connotes philosophical reflection on political processes and offers a general understanding of the fundamentals of nature of politics, the worldview it suggests, and meanings it

conjugates up, as well as the relationship between political knowledge and action. Furthermore, philosophy of politics focuses on common foundations and trends, which have driven the evolution of political life, political knowledge, political values, political action, and political consciousness through analyzing the nature of power, the state, sovereignty, and basic political ideals.

The history of political science considers the main stages of how political thought and theory developed over time. This subfield analyzes the evolution and present-day state of development of political science. This would include the study of the genesis of political thought and theory, proper academic conceptions of the world of politics, development of various schools and approaches to political analysis, as well as the evolution of political research methodologies and tools.

Methodology in political science delves into fundamental academic approaches and principles, employed in political research, methodological paradigms and traditions, individual methods, approaches and techniques for cognition, used in political science, applied research and political analysis. The focus of this subfield includes the evaluation of the attained level of political analysis, in tandem with accumulated and validated methods and forms of analysis with respect to political reality.

Fields of research:

Political theory and philosophy of politics; history and methodologies in political science include the following fields of research:

Political knowledge, the 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. The role of political theory in developing global political science. Normative political theories; methodological individualism. Making arguments in political thought and science;

The concept of the political, feasibility and conditions for the appearance and self-implementation of politics; rational and irrational inceptions of politics. Methodological grounds for studying the spatial and temporal aspects of political processes. Geopolitical and bio-political traditions and concepts in political thinking and science. Current methods and approaches to geopolitical, chronopolitical and geo-chronopolitical analysis. Theoretical models for political development, change, modernization, transition, progress and regression in politics.

The nature and essence of political power. Functions of political power. Types and variance in forms 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.

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 their variation.

The individual as a subject of politics. Subjects and objects of political action. The phenomenon of identity. 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 thinking and political consciousness. Mythological, utopian, and religious forms of political thinking. 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.

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 thinking and science. Proto-science imprint on the development of political thought and science. Key factors in the development of respective schools, approaches, and political theories. The role of respective doctrines, schools, methodological approaches and field-specific theories in the development of global political science. Studying the evolution of conceptual systems and terminology for politics and political science. Analytical and historical conceptual frameworks.

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 the development of research methods for politics and conceptual tools in fundamental and applied political science and “average” theories. Development of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods for researching politics. General academic and special traditions in the study of the political phenomena; positivism and post-positivism,

behaviouralism, anthropology, and cognitive instruments of post-modernism (post-structuralism, neo-institutionalism, discourse analysis).

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 a series of thick descriptions. Qualitative methods for political analysis and interpretation.

Political analysis, its 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 research into respective countries and regions; global, regional and national traditions in political research. Inter-disciplinary and comparative research into political science. Principles, methods and practice of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research. Knowledge and skills transfer between political science and other academic disciplines.

Symbolic measurement of political processes. Political semiotics. Approaches and practice for researching political and symbolical (verbal) actions, acts and events, political symbols and images. Methodological grounds and research practice for analyzing and interpreting political discourse. Political text. Techniques 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.

2. Political Institutions and Processes, Political Behaviour and Culture

This subfield studies institutional, procedural and technological features in politics, the special aspects of political change, the main subjects in political processes, value-based and behavioural foundations of politics, etc. Research related to this specialization covers political systems and regimes, institutions, political processes at the macro-, meso- and micro levels, political communities and subjects at the sub-national (intra-governmental) and local (municipal) level, ethnic political communities, political change and transformation, political development, political behaviour and culture, principles and mechanics of political administration, public politics, etc.

Fields of research:

Political systems and their structures. Functions of political systems. Typology of political systems. Models of political systems: comparative analysis. Types and forms of

state and state power. Statehood and state's integrity. 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 epoch and its key characteristics.

Political regimes. Typologies of political regimes. Key characteristics and variance of authoritarian regimes. Preconditions and typical characteristics of totalitarianism. Key aspects and criteria of democracy. Variability in democratic systems. Influence of political regimes on political processes. Transitional regimes: contemporary discussions. 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, 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 in the context of modernity. 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. The contemporary system in Russia. Parties and social movements. Parties and other types of approaches to articulating interests. Corporatism. Interest groups. Lobbyism.

The political elite. 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. The functions of political leadership. Leadership styles. Key features in the recruitment of political leaders in various types of political systems. Criteria for effective political leadership. Qualities of political leadership and image of a politician. Elites and leadership in contemporary Russia. Regional political elites: meaning, characteristics and functions. Models for recruitment of regional political elites and their mobility. Political orientation and paradigm of activities carried out by regional elites. Regional political leadership: key components, social makeup and dynamics.

Political processes and their variability. The 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 the political process. Shadow subjects in politics. Structural components of the political process, instruments and mechanisms for their interrelation and interaction. Levels of respective political processes. 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 in regional political processes in post-Soviet Russia. Models of democratic transition and political transformation of regional communities.

Statics and dynamics in political life: traditional and modernized types of society. Civilizational and national style of political development. Principles and instruments for reconciling common historical imperatives and demands of national tradition in the political development of society. Political modernization and its relationship with drives for modernization in various spheres of public life. Innovation groups in modernization processes. Modernization and democratization. Modernization in the context of globalization. Contradictions and possibilities for modernization in today's 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. 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 the electoral process. Election campaigns as a form of political mobilization. Technologies in election campaigns. Russia's electoral system.

Electoral behaviour and processes in regions around the world. Key approaches to the analysis of regional elections. Methods for analysis of 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 with respect to modern and post-modern processes. Irrational aspect of politics.

Research into the functions of political authority, types and variation in political power. Social foundations and resources of political power. Models for organizing political authority and power interrelation. Political power and administration, contemporary measurement of innovation policy. Development of contemporary technologies of administration and objectives of democratic control. Approaches to the legitimization of power and foundations of power relations.

Political administration. Institutions, forms and mechanisms of political administration, performance criteria. 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. Political administration in contemporary Russia: characteristics, key areas and specifics.

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

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. The use of media in contemporary politics. Coordination between media and state authority, business, influential social and political groups. Media resources in electoral processes. Media and the problem of information security. Media and the problem of political manipulation. Key features regarding the media's place and role 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.

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. Processes of 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 the 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 the 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 basis for regional policy. Institutions, methodologies and technologies in regional politics, along with their 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.

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

The role of religion in politics. Religious organizations. Key religious confessions and modernity. Problems of interconfessional 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. The culture of civic spirit. 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 research. Research on biospherical factors in politics, ecological and geopolitical research.

3. Global Politics

The subfield of global politics includes the study of political relations between an ever-expanding field of actors in a global and interrelated world, key spheres of activities on the part of actors in the global politics on the global, regional, national and subnational scale and their intersection, as well as recent problems of global and regional administration and development.

The focus of research under this specialization shall include political relations between global political actors, processes and problems of global and regional administration and development, as well as their relation with the administration and development of various nation states.

Fields of research:

Theories of international relations and global politics. Classical and new theories of international relations. Theories of global politics. Key concepts in global politics. Conceptual history of global politics and international relations. Normative and empirical

theory and approaches. Theoretical pluralism and contemporary development of international relations and global politics as academic disciplines.

Methodologies and methods for international research. Levels of analysis in research on international relations and global politics. Quantitative and qualitative methods in international research. Agent-oriented and system modelling. Discourse analysis and narrative analysis. Methodological pluralism and contemporary methods in social science for research on international relations and global politics.

International and global order. Global and regional systems. Contemporary international relations and global politics: key spheres, trends and development factors. Globalization and regionalization. Sub-national, national, supranational and transnational actors in global politics. The state as an actor in international relations and global politics. Status of the state in international relations. Strategies for achieving status. Hierarchies and hegemony in global policy. International institutions. Global and regional organizations: objectives, characteristics and forms of activities. Non-governmental organizations and finance and business institutions. Problems of collective action in global politics.

International systems: typologies, structural features, factors in formation and development, functional issues. Global and regional systems. Historical and contemporary international systems: problems of variability and continuity.

International political economy. Regulation of processes regarding national, regional and global development. New technologies, climate change and problems of global collective action. Migration. Global administration. Sanctions and sanction regimes.

International security and strategic stability. Security of the state and individual: traditional and new challenges and threats to security. Securitization. International conflicts. Essence, content and typology of international conflicts. Conditions for the appearance and forms of international conflicts. Strategies and methods for settling international conflicts. Internal conflicts and international security.

Authority, power and violence in global politics. Interstate wars: normative and empirical theories. Wars within states: civil wars, ethnic conflicts, new wars. Theory of “just war”. Contemporary military/political concepts in strategies. Military power in international relations and global politics. “Revolutions in warfare”. New technologies and global politics. Strategic stability. Systems for monitoring the arms trade. International peacekeeping, peace-building and post-war recovery (arbitration, regional administration, mediation, etc.)

Foreign policy analysis, analysis of politics of actors. External and internal factors in making foreign policy decisions. Processes in foreign policy decision-making. Interests of actors. Foreign policy strategies. Strategic cultures. Traditions in foreign policy thinking.

Ideas, norms, and identity in global politics. Networks and movements in global politics. Norms in international relations and global politics. Religion in global politics. Ideological in global politics. Ethical problems in foreign policy and global politics. Dilemmas and practices for maintaining international legitimacy and legitimization. Humanitarian crises in international relations. Problems of international intervention and protection. Correlation of principles of sovereign and universal nature of human rights. Development of global jurisprudence and related problems. New normative procedures.