

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by TAC 1 June 2012

Title of programme

M.Phil in International Relations

Brief note about nature of change:

Minor stylistic changes, submission requirements moved into conformity with Politics, incorporates a response to recent plagiarism cases and course titles and rubrics updated.

Effective date

With immediate effect

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2012* (for first examination in 2013 – Qualifying Test; and in 2014 – Final Examination)

Detail of change

1. P.538, delete I.10-I.14, and substitute:

'1. A formally assessed Research Design Proposal of 4,000 words, excluding bibliography, on the subject of the student's proposed M.Phil. thesis. Two hard copies, together with a copy on CD, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Monday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The scope and the format are as stated in the *Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in International Relations*.'

2. P.538, I.32, delete 'research design essay' and substitute 'Research Design

Proposal’.

3. **P.538, I.33-34, delete** ‘the week falling two weeks before Week One of the following Michaelmas Term’ **and substitute** ‘August following the end of Trinity Full Term’.
4. **P.538, I.41-46, delete** ‘Two hard-bound copies of the thesis, must be accompanied by a statement that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated. After the examination process is complete, one of the bound copies of the thesis of each successful candidate is sent by the Department to the Bodleian Library, and the other can be collected from the Department by the candidate’ **and substitute** ‘Two hard copies of the thesis, together with a copy on CD, must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library’.
5. **P.540, I.42-44, delete** ‘given in the *Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in International Relations* and in the examiners' Advice to Candidates’ **and substitute** ‘specified on the reading list issued by the Department of Politics and International Relations’.
6. **P.541, delete I.25-36, and substitute:**

‘(k) *The International Relations of the Developing and Post-Colonial World*. The paper analyses the international relations of developing and post-colonial countries, primarily in the period since 1945. The focus is on (a) the international political economy of development and underdevelopment; (b) the characteristics of developing states and their interaction with the political, economic and military arrangements in the international system; and (c) the rise of the Third World as a challenge to western dominance and the legacy of anti-western challenges in contemporary world politics. Topics include: international relations theory and the international relations of the developing world; decolonization and the emergence of the Third World; the nature of the state and problems of state building in developing countries; the political and economic forces which have shaped international arrangements for trade and finance since 1944 and the role of developing countries within them; political and economic constraints on growth in the world economy; security, intervention, and conflict; regionalism and 'regimes'; emerging powers, especially China, India and Brazil; South-South coalitional politics; political Islam and the West; Southern social movements in global politics’.

7. **P.542, delete I.18-30, and substitute:**

‘(o) *State Failure and State Reconstruction (Post-Conflict State Building)*. This course examines the theoretical foundations and practices of post-conflict state building, with an emphasis on the experiences of the post-Cold War period. Among the topics addressed will be the changing strategic context of the 1990s; the debates surrounding international intervention in support of post-conflict state building; strategies for assisting and rebuilding fragile and war-torn states; humanitarian, development and security approaches to state reconstruction; the roles of major states and international and regional organisations; and normative issues arising with respect to post-conflict state building. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate strong knowledge of one or more relevant cases.’.

Explanatory Notes

Clauses 1 and 2 relate to a previously incorrectly stated assessment unit title, clause 3 brings submission requirements moved into conformity with Politics in order to ensure that the IR examining process is concluded before the beginning of the next academic year, clauses 1 and 4 concern an update to reflect current practice (whereby examiners' copies of theses must be impounded at Schools for one year in case of appeals) and ensure the submission requirements are stated precisely and unambiguously, and clause 5 reflects the fact that the reading list is the authoritative source of this information, the other documents simply refer back to it.

Clause 7 concerns course (o), *State Failure and State Reconstruction (Post-Conflict State Building)* which was designed by Prof Richard Caplan (Linacre College) and has been offered for four or five years, but has been omitted from successive editions of the Grey Book. The previous course, *From a European to a Global International Society* was offered once in 2010-11 but the academic who designed and taught it (Prof Andy Hurrell) no longer wishes to offer it and would like it removed from the regulations. The reason is that he has revised and updated the syllabus of another, long-established course ('The International Relations of the Developing and Post-Colonial World') and the two papers are now very similar in content. The course title and rubric of (k) has therefore been updated in clause 6 to reflect the development of the academic field and changing political realities.

With regard to clauses 1 and 2, The requirement to submit a copy of the thesis on CD is a response to recent plagiarism cases. The Department considered a CD to be the most practical method of electronic submission, because: a) it is consistent with other examinations (e.g. the regulations for FHS PPE require an electronic copy and for a number of years submission on CD has been the practice: see the letter to thesis candidates at <http://www.ppe.ox.ac.uk/index.php/ppe-exams>); and b) since the items are submitted to the Examination Schools, it wouldn't be appropriate for us to dictate a format of submission that increases their workload. At the moment, students submit two hardcopies in an envelope. This regulation simply means that they will slip a CD in the envelope alongside the hardcopies. The Schools are not currently equipped to accept direct and secure online submission via Weblearn or a similar web mechanism.