

**American Politics**  
**Comprehensive Examination Instructions**  
(as of June 27, 2018)

This exam is an open book/note exam that students have nine hours to complete. Non-native speakers of English have 11 hours to complete the exam. Students must answer three questions for the exam. The recommended response length for each question is 1,750 words. Students may go over this length within reason if necessary. However, there is no expectation that the “best” answers will be the longest. Students should focus on the quality of each response first and the quantity second. *The exam will be graded anonymously. Please list only your ND student identification number on your exam.*

Students must also turn in a bibliography listing all citations from their responses. This bibliography should be formatted according to a common citation style (e.g., APA, APSA, Chicago). *It is due by e-mail to the Director of Graduate Studies 48 hours after the exam is due.* The bibliography should also list *only* your ND student identification number. The exam will not be graded if the bibliography is not received in the allotted time.

Students must earn a passing grade on all three questions of the exam in order to pass. A failing grade on any of the three questions necessitates that the student retakes the entire exam. The option of writing a literature review when failing one question is not available for the American politics comprehensive exam, as it is already an open book exam.

Students must have completed American Political Behavior (POLS 60043), American Political Institutions (POLS 60040), and at least one other graduate course in American politics (not including directed readings courses) prior to taking the comprehensive exam in American politics. The field chair in American Politics may grant an exception to this requirement when requested by the student, when supported by the student’s primary advisor, and when there is a strong rationale for doing so.

The American politics comprehensive exam consists of two sections—one on American political institutions and one on American political behavior. Each section contains three questions. Students must answer one question from each of the two sections. For their third answer, students may choose a question from either the institutions or behavior sections.