



POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Comprehensive Examination in Constitutional Studies Instructions to Candidates

The Constitutional Studies comprehensive examination is an open-book, written exam, taken over a period of eight hours (nine hours for ESL students). The 8-hour limit is firm, with exceptions at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies only for physically or linguistically handicapped students and documented events of an extraordinary nature, not including equipment problems for which the student is presumed responsible. Failure to meet the deadline means failure on the exam.

The exam will consist of three questions. No answer can be longer than 1,700 words. Answers must be the student's own, and students are urged to take special care to avoid suspicion of plagiarism. All quotes, paraphrases, and copied material (charts, tables, etc.) must be accompanied with full references. Answers sent PDF must be doubled-spaced; students must save copies of their answers in PDF for future production as the DGS may request.

The field of Constitutional Studies at Notre Dame is divided into four subfields: (1) Philosophy of Law and Constitutional Interpretation; (2) American Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics; (3) Comparative Constitutional Systems and Law; (4) International Law and Human Rights. Students must answer at least one question in (a) Philosophy of Law and Constitutional Interpretation, and (b) American Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics. For their third answer, students choose to answer a question from either (c) Comparative Constitutional Systems and Law or (d) International Law and Human Rights.

The field faculty will make every effort to grade the comps within three weeks of completion.