

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST</b> <b>Graduate Programs</b>	UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department PhD in Comparative Studies College Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters	
<b>Program Name</b> PhD in Comparative Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Program</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Change Program</b>	<b>Effective Date</b> <i>(TERM &amp; YEAR)</i> Fall 2019
<p><b>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment</b></p> <p>We are adding a social science track, (Culture, Society, and Politics), to the current PhD program in Comparative Studies. Attached is both a rationale (narrative), as well as the new catalog language related to the track. A proposal for a new course in Research Methods that will be needed in the new track is being submitted separately.</p>		
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Adam Bradford abradfo5@fau.edu 954.816.1533	<b>Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation</b> None.	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean _____ UGPC Chair _____ UGC Chair _____ Graduate College Dean _____ UFS President _____ Provost _____	<b>Date</b> 1/31/2018 2/6/18 2/12/18 2-28-18 2/28/18 2-28-18	

Email this form and attachments to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) one week before the UGPC meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

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**(BELOW TEXT IS TO BE ADDED TO THE CATALOG FOLLOWING THE "CULTURES, LANGUAGES, AND LITERATURES CONCENTRATION" SECTION)**

***Culture, Society, and Politics Concentration***

**Program Description**

The Culture, Society, and Politics track of the PhD Program in Comparative Studies is designed to foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study in the social sciences. It is structured to allow students the opportunity to develop deep expertise in one of three primary areas – sociology, anthropology, or political science – and to bring their interests and scholarship related to these areas into conversation with other disciplines both within and outside of traditional social science fields. At the heart of the program is a commitment to the belief that comparative models of inquiry lead to unique advancements in the production of new knowledge and a greater awareness of the larger implications of such knowledge generally.

As an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary program, the Comparative Studies: Culture, Society, and Politics track draws on the strengths of the various departments in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters as well as the broader graduate programs of Florida Atlantic University. Areas of particular strength include: (Anthropology) sociocultural and medical anthropology; bioarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology, zooarchaeology, and primatology; (Sociology) studies of gender, agriculture, adulthood, adolescence, childhood, race, social class, and economics; (Political Science) comparative politics, American politics, international relations, public policy and law, post-conflict resolution, democracy and democratization, political behavior, and quantitative methods.

The program is structured so that students follow a cohesive plan of study that includes both an interdisciplinary social science core and, in close consultation with their advisory committees, the development of two specific areas of specialization that might themselves be multidisciplinary (see "Program of Study" below). We encourage students to address issues in cultures, societies, and/or politics from multiple perspectives and to seek the convergence of these perspectives through the insights of interdisciplinary approaches.

This program invites students to explore the interplay among cultures, societies, and politics, as well as theories and methodologies, technologies and pedagogies. Toward this end, students will be expected to attend Ph.D. Colloquia in addition to their formal coursework. While most graduates of the program will prepare for the challenge of the academy in an increasingly globalized society, others will prepare for a variety of non-academic opportunities, including positions in public and private organizations.

**Degree Requirements**

**1. Minimum Standards**

- Ph.D. students will take a minimum of 55 credits, 30 of them at the 7000 level. The concentration requires a minimum 36 credits of coursework and 18 dissertation credits. No grade lower than "B" may apply to the degree. To continue in the program, students must maintain a "B" (3.0) grade point average on all work attempted toward the degree.

**2. Distribution Requirements:**

- CST 7309: Theory (3 credits)
- CST 7921: Research Design (3 credits)

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- CST 7936: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (6 credits)
- CST 7910: Advanced Research and Study (1-9 credits)
- CST 7980: Dissertation Credits (18 credits)
- A minimum of 8 additional graduate courses at the 6000-7000 level from at least two different College/University programs.

### **3. Qualifying Exams:**

- Students begin the program as a "Doctoral Student." After completing 18 hours of coursework in the distribution requirements for the program, students will be required to submit an Application for Qualification, which, if approved, will advance them to the status of "Doctoral Scholar." Through the application, the PhD Executive Committee will review the applicant's current progress to date through the program, their skills as a scholar/researcher, and their progress in planning for the Comprehensive Examination. After its review, the committee will make one of two decisions: to advance the student to Doctoral Scholar, or to deny advancement. If advancement is denied, the student may choose to reapply one more time the following semester. Failure to be advanced will result in dismissal from the program.

### **4. Comprehensive Exams:**

- Comprehensive Exams consist of a written and oral component. In the semester after completing 32 graduate credits in the program, typically fall of year three, the student will take the Written Comprehensive Examination in the eighth week of the semester and the Oral Comprehensive Examination in the tenth week of the semester. The Comprehensive Examinations are administered and evaluated by the student's dissertation committee (see dissertation section below). In consultation with the student, the committee will compile a reading list from which the exams will be constructed. This list will not be based solely on the student's coursework, but will include as well readings that the exam committee deems foundational for the student's program of study. The successful completion of this written component is followed by the oral exam within two weeks, which examines, beyond the limits of the written exam, the extent of the student's mastery of the material. Students who fail the written exam may retake it one time only. Students who fail the oral exam may retake it one time only. Failure to pass either exam on the second attempt will initiate the dismissal process from the program, consistent with the Provost's policy.

### **5. Satisfactory Completion of a Dissertation:**

- By the end of the second year of course work, the student will ask a faculty member to serve as the major professor for the dissertation. In consultation with the major professor, the student will ask at least two to three other faculty members to serve on the committee. The student will defend his/her Dissertation Prospectus the semester after passing the comprehensive examinations, typically at the beginning of spring in year three. The dissertation will contain original research and will be defended before the student's committee and others.

### Program Description

The Culture, Society, and Politics track of the PhD Program in Comparative Studies is a four year program designed to foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study in the social sciences. It is structured to allow students the opportunity to develop deep expertise in one of three primary areas – sociology, anthropology, or political science – and to bring their interests and scholarship related to these areas into conversation with other disciplines both within and outside of traditional social science fields. At the heart of the program is a commitment to the belief that comparative models of inquiry lead to unique advancements in the production of new knowledge and a greater awareness of the larger implications of such knowledge generally.

### Alignment with Strategic Objectives

As an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research program, the Comparative Studies: Culture, Society, and Politics track draws on the strengths of the various departments in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters as well as the broader graduate programs and research initiatives of Florida Atlantic University. *In doing so, this program seeks to contribute to and capitalize on our institutional investment in strategic areas of emphasis (pillars and platforms).* Currently, there are nascent partnerships between the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and *Healthy Aging and Environmental and Ocean Science (Harbor Branch)* that will be strengthened through this initiative. PhD researchers in the fields of sociology, anthropology, and political science will be recruited to join faculty currently working on projects identified as of joint value to both the respective department and pillar (such projects include the sociology of healthy aging, environmental politics, and environmental anthropology). *As they do so, these graduate student researchers will not only increase the productivity of both units with which they interface, but will drive additional collaboration and increase grant production as they identify and develop their own respective research foci.* This program also presents the college with the opportunity to increase our already substantial participation in several of the university's strategic platforms, as well. Currently social scientists in the College of Arts and Letters feature faculty in anthropology with specialties in international political economies, settlement patterns, globalism, and the anthropology of work; faculty in political science with specialties in international relations, political behavior, human rights, media and politics, politics of the Middle East and Africa, postcolonial state building, and global environmental governance; and faculty in sociology with specialties in global sociology, community development, comparative and world historical sociology, and transnational activism. *Research in such areas strengthens the university's scholarly profile in Global Perspectives and Participation, and such strength will be amplified with the presence of PhD level student researchers recruited to FAU to work with faculty in these areas of expertise.* Similarly, we can expect to further strengthen the college's commitment to contributing heavily to the *Diversity and Peace, Justice and Human Rights* platforms, as we recruit PhD student researchers to work with current faculty whose research includes such areas as the sociology of gender, sexuality, and the human body, race and race relations, poverty and marginality; the political science of ethnic and religious conflict, power sharing agreements, transitional justice, and human rights; and the anthropology of gender and social organization. Finally, it is anticipated that the college's already significant contributions to scholarly and creative work that supports the *South Florida Culture* platform will only increase as we recruit students interested in working with faculty currently researching in areas such as Florida archaeology, South Florida refugees and immigrants, Florida politics and government, and Florida urban sociology. In addition to the nascent partnerships that we currently have with these pillars and platforms, *graduate social science researchers represent an opportunity to foster other intercollegial partnerships, as well.*

Anthropology's strength in medical anthropology, for instance, *promises to attract students interested in this field who might also contribute to ongoing initiatives in narrative medicine and holistic nursing at the College of Medicine and College of Nursing.* In addition, the department's strength in primatology research not only offers ongoing research opportunities for incoming PhD students, but also *promises to foster emergent projects with coevolving opportunities for additional NSF grant monies.* Other areas of specialty, such as bioarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology, and zooarcheology promise similar opportunities for targeted research and grant production. *All total, the research and grant production fostered by the inception of this new track will not only nurture mutually beneficial interdisciplinary partnerships with other colleges, departments, and pillars, but will contribute meaningfully to the university's pursuit of a Carnegie R1 designation.*

#### Justification

The National Science Foundation's 2014 Survey of Earned Doctorates shows that despite a roughly 20% increase in the number of social science PhDs granted in the prior decade, *the number of graduates securing postdoctoral commitments and tenure-track appointments has held relatively steady at or about 70%. This is a better performance metric than virtually any other discipline* including life sciences (which has seen a decline in such commitments and appointments from 71% to 59%), physical sciences (71% to 63.8%), and even engineering (63% to 57%). This means that within the academy alone, demand for social science PhDs has actually increased despite the economic downturn marking this period, and that *opportunities for social science PhDs within the academy are relatively strong.* Moreover, the tightening of the job market in other academic disciplines has fostered a new culture of academic entrepreneurship within PhD programs generally, launching an "alt-ac" movement that has sought to open up career options for PhDs outside of the academy. *Here, social scientists fare extremely well, also, with the majority of the 30% of individuals not in academic positions working in business, government, and non-profit sectors* (this according to a 2016 study of career placement data by Cornell University's Career Progression and Satisfaction project). Given the strength of the college's faculty (enumerated above), the demand for social science PhDs within the academy, and the relatively strong opportunities for employment in non-academic careers, *implementing a viable PhD track in the social sciences seems warranted.*

While prospects for newly minted social science PhDs are therefore relatively good, *it should be mentioned that this track will also be the beneficiary of our current programmatic push to develop career options for students outside of the tenure track ("alt-ac options").* This fall, the PhD program in Comparative Studies applied for a Next Generation Humanities PhD Planning Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities which, if awarded, will allow us the opportunity to 1) investigate how we might best incorporate internships into PhD students' plans of study, 2) mobilize our extensive network of alumni in order to help students navigate the job market both inside and outside of academia, and 3) consider how the traditional dissertation might be restructured to allow for current advances in digital technology as well as a proliferation of dissertation models that target specific career opportunities both inside and outside of academia. Whether or not this particular grant proposal is funded, the program is committed to pursuing the above-listed set of initiatives. The Culture, Society, and Politics track of the PhD program will be crafted with the same initiatives in mind, and will share the program's broader commitment to *prepare students for substantive careers as researchers inside of academia while, at the same time, providing them with the experience and opportunities necessary to successfully transition into careers outside the academy should they so choose.*

## Adam Bradford

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**From:** Ann Branaman  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 12:55 PM  
**To:** Adam Bradford  
**Subject:** RE: Brief Statement of Support for PhD Social Science Track

Hi Adam,

I fully support the proposal for the social science track in the Comparative Studies Ph.D. program.

Ann

*Chair Sociology*

**From:** Adam Bradford  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Ann Branaman; Michael Harris; Kevin Wagner  
**Subject:** Brief Statement of Support for PhD Social Science Track

Hi Ann, Mike, and Kevin,

Would you mind responding to this email with a brief statement of support for the social science track in the PhD program. It can literally just be a sentence that says as much. If I could have such a thing by the end of the day it would be most appreciated. Sorry for the rush.

Best,

Adam

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Adam C. Bradford, PhD  
Associate Dean of Graduate Study  
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
Director – PhD Program in Comparative Studies  
Associate Professor of English  
Florida Atlantic University  
Boca Raton, Florida  
561.297.0928  
Communities of Death: Whitman, Poe and the American Culture of Mourning

## **Adam Bradford**

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**From:** Michael Harris  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:13 PM  
**To:** Adam Bradford  
**Subject:** RE: Brief Statement of Support for PhD Social Science Track

Dear Adam,  
Yes, I support the social science PhD track.

Best,  
Michael Harris  
Chair, Anthropology

**From:** Adam Bradford  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Ann Branaman <branaman@fau.edu>; Michael Harris <mharris@fau.edu>; Kevin Wagner <kwagne15@fau.edu>  
**Subject:** Brief Statement of Support for PhD Social Science Track

Hi Ann, Mike, and Kevin,

Would you mind responding to this email with a brief statement of support for the social science track in the PhD program. It can literally just be a sentence that says as much. If I could have such a thing by the end of the day it would be most appreciated. Sorry for the rush.

Best,

Adam

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Adam C. Bradford, PhD  
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Director – PhD Program in Comparative Studies  
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Communities of Death: Whitman, Poe and the American Culture of Mourning

## Adam Bradford

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**From:** Kevin Wagner  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 2:02 PM  
**To:** Adam Bradford  
**Cc:** Ann Branaman; Michael Harris  
**Subject:** Re: Brief Statement of Support for PhD Social Science Track

I support the establishment of a social science track in the PhD Program.

Kevin



*Kevin M. Wagner, J.D., PhD*  
Professor and Chair, Department Political Science  
President, FAU Faculty Senate  
Trustee, FAU Board of Trustees  
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On Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 12:49 PM, Adam Bradford <[abradfo5@fau.edu](mailto:abradfo5@fau.edu)> wrote:

Hi Ann, Mike, and Kevin,

Would you mind responding to this email with a brief statement of support for the social science track in the PhD program. It can literally just be a sentence that says as much. If I could have such a thing by the end of the day it would be most appreciated. Sorry for the rush.

Best,