Appendix 2: Basic Concepts in Political Science/Learning Objectives

Far from exhaustive, Political Science Ph.D. students should be familiar with and able to use the following concepts in their research and teaching. In the case of Political Theory, students should also be familiar with the various philosophical traditions associated with appropriate concepts.

**Political Theory**
Authority  
Legitimacy  
Justice  
Fairness  
Equity  
Sovereignty  
Liberty  
Freedom  
Law  
Social Norms  
Civil and political liberties  
Human Rights

**Political Systems and Institutions**
Direct democracy  
Representative democracy  
  - Representation v. Trusteeship theories  
Presidential systems  
Parliamentary systems  
Division of powers  
Federalism  
Voting Systems  
  - First past the post  
  - Proportional representation  
  - Ranked choice  
  - More…  
Authoritarianism  
  - Military Juntas  
  - Personalist regimes  
  - Single party regimes  
  - Oligarchic regimes  
Totalitarianism

**Political Behavior**
Interest/advocacy Groups  
Partisanship  
Polarization
Public Opinion
Persuasion
Race and Racism
Gender

**Strategic Interactions**
Collective action problems
Credible commitment
Bargaining failures
Public Goods
Club Goods
Common Pool Resource problems
Principal-Agent problems
  Selection
  Monitoring and enforcement

**Political Violence**
War
Terrorism
Civil War
Insurrection and rebellion
Deterrence
  First-strike advantage
  Mutual Assured Destruction
Compellence

**Political Economy**
Poverty
Inequality
Income Distribution
Theory of comparative advantage
  Division of Labor
  Comparative Advantage
Globalization
Foreign Direct Investment
Portfolio Investment

**Political Methods**
Experiments v. quasi-experiments v. observational studies
Correlation
Causation
Descriptive statistics
Regression
Qualitative methods
  Case studies
  Participant-observation studies
  Ethnographic studies
Research Ethics