

CGSP Resolution 2006-07D
**Resolution for Establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Social,
Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought**

Approved by the Commission on GS&P	March 21, 2007
First reading by University Council:	April 2, 2007
Approved by University Council:	April 30, 2007
Approved by the President:	April 30, 2007
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	June 4, 2007
Effective Date:	Spring 2008

WHEREAS the proposal responds both to a national need for theoretically informed interdisciplinary education in social, political, ethical, and cultural thought and to the possibility for Virginia Tech to provide national leadership in the humanities and social sciences; and,

WHEREAS there is a demonstrated need to educate increased numbers of the future professoriate with interdisciplinary expertise in social, political, ethical, and cultural thought as documented by reports as varied as the AAU Task Force on The Role and Status of the Humanities, the Rand Corporation's The 21st Century at Work, both the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Virginia Employment Commission, and in letters from prospective employers; and,

WHEREAS much of the best and most interesting scholarship across the humanities and social science disciplines views the relationships with respect to individual and social transformations among culture, politics, and ethics as interwoven, not isolated phenomena; and,

WHEREAS the proposed Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought prepares graduate students to undertake problem centered, theoretically informed, and interdisciplinary research at the intersections of the humanities, social sciences and cognate professional fields; and,

WHEREAS the proposed Ph.D. is sustained by some 50 ASPECT-affiliated faculty across these academic fields; and,

WHEREAS the proposal's emphasis on team-teaching, interdisciplinary methodology and theory, as well as ongoing collaborative and problem-centered research is particularly well suited to foster the development of original and creative research on the part of both students and faculty; and,

WHEREAS Virginia Tech is dedicated to advancing to the ranks of the top research universities in the United States and to establishing a graduate education portfolio "reflective of a 21st Century University" including more Ph.D. degrees in social sciences/humanities; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought is centrally featured in the University's 2006-2012 Strategic Plan

Update in Graduate and Professional Education as a core unit of the Social and Individual Transformation component of the VT Discovery Scholarship domain; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, be approved and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) for approval.