

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

William Robert Clark, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	Rutgers University
M.A.	1991	Rutgers University
B.A.	1988	William Paterson College

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2003 – 2004	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, New York University
1998 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, New York University
1994 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Georgia Institute of Technology

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Clark is an excellent instructor who teaches an unusually broad range of undergraduate courses, from large introductory lectures to smaller, writing-intensive seminars, and covers topics that include comparative politics, international relations, and game theory. He receives good evaluations for all of these types of courses, and students note his passion for the subject of political science. Professor Clark especially excels at graduate teaching, both inside the classroom and more informally, with students from all subfields seeking his advice on their research projects. He is equally at home teaching quantitative and technical courses, such as Math for Political Scientists, and substantive courses, such as International Political Economy.

Research – Professor Clark is an accomplished and influential scholar whose many contributions in comparative politics, international relations, and political methodology have been recognized by leading scholars. He is certainly among the top cohort in these areas. He has published five articles in peer-reviewed journals and a book, *Principles of Comparative Politics*, since coming to Michigan in 2004. He has three papers under review and is working on several others. One of his recent journal articles, identifying mistakes that political scientists make in testing theories and identifying the procedures that should be used, is among the most influential political science publications in recent years. Two other papers make major contributions to our understanding of how societal and institutional forces combine to influence the number of political parties that exist within a country. Finally, his book is a landmark achievement, reorienting the way in which comparative politics is viewed and taught.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Principles of Comparative Politics, with M. Golder and S. N. Golder, Congressional Quarterly Press, 2008.

“Are African party systems different?” with M. Golder and T. Brambor, *Electoral Studies*, 26(2), 2007, pp. 315-323.

“Rehabilitating Duverger’s theory: A global test of the sociological and institutional determinants of party systems,” with M. Golder, *Comparative Political Studies*, 39(6), 2006, pp. 679-708.

“Strategic interaction and trade policymaking: Formal analysis and simulation,” with E. Duchesne and W. L. Reed, *The World Economy* 29(4), 2006, pp. 507-520.

Service – Professor Clark is an excellent citizen. He has served on the departmental Executive Committee as well as on search committees and the Admissions Committee. He is also entering his second year as the placement director. He is equally active for the profession more generally, reviewing for more than a dozen journals and academic presses as well as organizing interdisciplinary conferences on the study of religion. In the past few years, he has been invited to give talks around the world.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“It seems to me that the case for promoting Will is more or less open-and-shut. Since receiving tenure, he has continued at a high level of professional activity, publishing about half a dozen articles in referred journals, taking themes of his earlier research to new contexts while also embarking on a new and different project, and producing a distinctive textbook.”

Reviewer (B)

“Over the last five years there has been a surge in available cross-national data on religion, and within political science there has been a revival of interest in the area. ... Like any newly forming area, however, there is a need for theoretical models and ideas that both guide and stimulate new research, as well as integrate this research into the larger discipline. Professor Clark is someone who has the capacity to do just that.”

Reviewer (C)

“Clark is one of the leaders of his cohort of scholars working in comparative and international political economy. His work has made central contributions to the literature on the politics of monetary policy and monetary institutions. He has also contributed in important ways to discussions of appropriate statistical methods in the social sciences. Clark is well respected among leading scholars, both for his substantive knowledge and for his methodological rigor.”

Reviewer (D)

“...[*Principles of Comparative Politics*] is an extraordinarily ambitious book; there is nothing in comparative politics that even comes close. The response to it in the field has been overwhelmingly positive...”

Reviewer (E)

"Professor Clark's existing publication record amply supports an appointment to the full professor level. He has 13 publications in peer-reviewed journals, a published monograph with the University of Michigan Press, an edited book, and a new comparative politics textbook. ... This book exemplifies a genuinely new, serious, and rigorous approach to teaching undergraduates about comparative politics. ... I see this book as a signal contribution to the field of comparative politics."

Reviewer (F)

"...[Clark] has been very productive. The new research addresses important and understudied topics. The combination of methodological rigor and substantive findings in his research is to be applauded. ...I think highly of Prof. Clark's work and would recommend strongly that you promote him."

Reviewer (G)

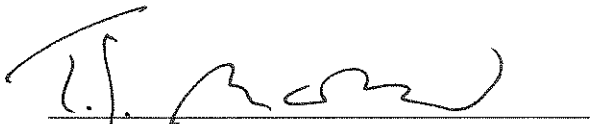
"There is no doubt that Bill Clark has produced and is producing some very high quality and interesting scholarship. The impressive package of projects and papers in the pipeline gives every reason for confidence in his continuing productivity."

Reviewer (H)

"He is able to work with graduate and undergraduate students, and bring them along under his guidance into the profession. ...Clark is an intellectually accomplished scholar with a very good record. ...I would endorse his record in my department. I would do so because he is an industrious and creative scholar with a record of influence on the discipline and a very ambitious agenda for future scholarly research."

Summary of Recommendation:

William Clark is an accomplished and influential scholar. He is also an excellent teacher, mentor, and provider of collective goods. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor William Robert Clark be promoted to the rank of professor of political science, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2010