Course Description
This course is the core seminar for the field of comparative politics in the political science Ph.D. program. It provides an introduction to the dominant questions, theories and empirical research in comparative politics. Substantive topics include development and political regimes, political order and conflict, protest, culture, representation, accountability and the rule of law.

Course Goals
This course has two goals: 1) to prepare students for a research career in comparative politics by providing a general survey of the field, and 2) to prepare doctoral candidates for the preliminary examination in comparative politics.

Reading Material
The following books are available at the university bookstore.


In addition to the texts listed above, we will read a series of articles, all of which are available on the web or on the door of my office. Readings that are not (easily) accessible via the web are indicated below. You are responsible for locating copies of the required readings.

Recommended readings are listed below each topic on the schedule. They are included in order to help guide the doctoral candidates as they prepare for the preliminary examination in comparative politics.

**Grading**

Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components:

1) *Two Examinations (Each worth 30% of your grade).* Exams are modeled after the doctoral preliminary examinations. You will be asked to answer two or three questions out of a possible four or five. Each exam is a take-home exercise. I will deliver an exam to you on Friday and you will have the weekend to complete your responses. Exams are due *in my box at noon of the following Monday*, as indicated below.

2) *Discussion Leadership (10%)* Each of you will be assigned three seminars to lead. Please email a set of discussion questions to your colleagues Monday morning by 10 a.m. In addition, I would like to meet with you Monday, before class, in order to discuss the issues you would like to address. Topics may be divided across both substantive and methodological issues. In addition to whatever you identify, you must be prepared to discuss the following topics.

**Substantive**

- What question motivates the research? Is it clearly expressed?
- What is the goal of the researcher? Description, explanation, prediction?
- What is the theory? Is it clear?
- Are the concepts in the theory clearly defined?
- What is the unit of analysis?
- Are the key actors in the theory individuals, groups, states, or organizations? Does it matter?
- What are the observable implications of the theory?

**Methodological**

- Which implications does the researcher test?
- What is the central empirical strategy?
- Does this strategy adequately test the theory?
- Are the concepts validly measured?
- How are the cases selected?

3) *Participation (20%).* I expect you to be prepared to discuss the research we review, especially the topics that your discussion leader identifies. If you feel the discussion leader has overlooked an important topic, I expect you to raise it in class. A key goal of our class is to learn from each other, and this is impossible if we are unprepared. In order to help this process along, I strongly suggest that you bring written notes to class.
4) **Review (10%)**. You will be asked to write a review of an anonymous paper submission. Writing reviews is a core part of our job, so the better you learn to do this, the better.

**Integrity of Scholarship**
I will follow the guidelines established by Emory College, which can be found at [http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html](http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html).

**Students with Disabilities**
If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should consult the Office of Disability Services at 404-727-6016 (TDD: 404-712-2049).

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

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**Course Schedule**

**January – The Logic of Causal Inference: Is there a “Comparative” Method?**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


• Dion, Douglas. 1998. “Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study.” *Comparative Politics* 127-145.


**February 2 – Development and the Political Sociology of Regimes I (AKA, We will read Barrington Moore!)**

**Required:**

• Moore (focus on Chapters 1, 7, 8 & 9)

**Recommended (see below):**

**February 9 – Development and the Political Sociology of Regimes II**

**Required:**


**Recommended (see below):**

**February 16 – Development and the Economics of Regimes**

**Required:**

• Przeworski et al. *Democracy and Development*. 2000, Chapters 1 & 2


**Recommended (see below):**
February 23– The Political Economy of Regimes

Required:


- Magaloni, Beatriz, Voting for Autocracy, Chapters 1 & 8 (Reading in my office)


Recommended Readings for Development and Regimes:


• O’Donnell, Guillermo and Phillipe Schmitter, Transitions from Authoritarian Rule. 1986


• Further recommended readings (TBA)

March 2 – Political Culture

Required:
• Putnam. 1993. Skim Chapters 1-2, Read 3-6

• Inglehart and Welzel, Chapters 1-8

Recommended:
• Almond Gabriel and Sidney Verba. eds. 1980. The Civic Culture Revisited.


• Bednar, Jenna & Scott E. Page. 2006. “Can Game(s) Theory Explain Culture? The Emergence of Cultural Behavior Within Multiple Games.” Rationality and Society 18


March 6 – EXAM 1 DISTRIBUTED

March 9 – Spring Break

March 16 – Mobilization and Resistance

Required:

• Scott, James C. 1985. Weapons of the Weak, Chapters 1, 2, 5-8

EXAM 1 DUE

Recommended: (See below)

March 23 – Ethnic Conflict

Required:
• Laitin, David D. Hegemony and Culture. 1986.


Recommended: (See below)

March 30 – Violence

• Kalyvas, Stathis N. 2006. The Logic of Violence in Civil War, All read theory chapters, divide empirical chapters


Selected Conflict Readings:
• Fearon, James and David Laitin, “Explaining Interethnic Cooperation” American Political Science Review. 90: 715-736.


• Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

• Additional ethnic conflict and mobilization readings to come

**April 6 – Presidential and Parliamentary Democracy**

**Required:**

• Cheibub, José Antonio. 2007. Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.


Recommended:
- Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. “Presidentialism, Multiparty, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination,” Comparative Political Studies. 26:

April 13 – Electoral Competition
Required:
- Norris, Pippa. 2004. Electoral Engineering, Chapters 4-7

Recommended:


• Carey, John. 2000. “Parchment, Equilibria and Institutions,” Comparative Political Studies. 33:


April 20 – Representation and Accountability

**Required:**


• Norris, Pippa. 2004. *Electoral Engineering,* Chapters 8-9

• Stokes, Susan C. *Mandates and Democracy.* New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1 & 2 (Reading in my office)

**MANUSCRIPT REVIEW DUE**

**Recommended:**


April 27 – Political Economy

**Required:**

• Alesina et. al. 1997. *Political Cycles and the Macroeconomy*

**Recommended:**


*April 29 – EXAM 2 DISTRIBUTED*

*May 4 – EXAM 2 DUE*