Instructions for the Comparative Politics Field of Study Examination

I. Structure of Comparative Politics FoS examination

The Comparative Politics FoS examination has three sections. Each section will have a number of questions that the student may choose from. Students will be expected to answer one question per section in a three-hour period.

   **Section 1. Concepts, Methods, and Theories:** Section 1 will include questions on general theoretical and methodological problems.

   **Section 2. Themes in Comparative Politics:** Section 2 will include questions on specific thematic issues in the sub-field.

   *For students taking the Comparative FoS Exam in their Primary Field Only:*
   **Section 3. Area of Dissertation Research (Primary Field Only):** Section 3 will consist of a specific topic related to the anticipated area of doctoral research, which may include a regional specialization. This specific topic will be selected in consultation with the Supervisor. Appropriate reading lists for this section will be developed with the Supervisor.

   *For students taking the Comparative FoS Exam in their Secondary Field Only:*
   **Section 3. Thematic Specialization (Secondary Field Only):** Section 3 will include a thematic specialization such as: political parties, civil-military relations, democratization, political institutions, etc. If a student chooses to specialize on one of the themes already listed in the Comparative Politics Reading List (e.g., ideas, norms, and culture; or modernization and development), he or she will be expected to master it in more depth than what the reading list contains.

II. Recommended preparatory course work

As preparation for the Comparative Politics FoS examination, the Comparative Politics Field Caucus recommends the following courses:

   **POLI 671:** The material for Sections 1 and 2 will be related to the items in this reading list and to the material covered in POLI 671.

   **POLI 673:** The material for Sections 1 and 2 will be related to the items in this reading list and to the material covered in POLI 673.
III. Additional instructions for the Comparative Politics FoS Examination

The student’s Supervisor will be responsible for drafting a reading list for the particular specialization, in consultation with the members of the caucus and with the student, if one is not already available.
Reading list for the Comparative politics Field of study Examination

GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS
Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes, eds. The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics (OUP, 2007).
Munck, Gerardo and Richard Snyder, eds. Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics (Johns Hopkins, 2007).

SECTION 1. CONCEPTS, METHODS, AND THEORIES

A. Concepts, methods, and research design


Shapiro, Ian, Rogers Smith and Tarek Masoud, eds., *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, (Cambridge, 2004).


**B. Theories and approaches**


**SECTION 2. THEMES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

**A. States and regimes**


Vergara, Camila, *Systemic Corruption: Constitutional Ideas for an Anti-Oligarchic Republic* (Princeton, 2020); Introduction “Crisis of the Representative Republic” and Ch. 1 “Corruption as Political Decay” (pp. 1-42).

### B. Constitutions, political parties, and electoral systems


C. Collective identities: Race, ethnicity, indigeneity, religion, and gender


Chandra, Kanchan, Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics (Oxford University Press, 2012).


D. Contentious politics and violence


Lawrence, Adria and Erica Chenoweth, eds. *Rethinking Violence: State and Non-State Actors in Conflict* (MIT Press, 2010),

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. *Dynamics of Contention* (Cambridge, 2001)


Skocpol, Theda. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979).


**E. Development, policy, and political economy**


Connelly, M. Patricia Connelly, Tania Murray Li, Martha McDonald, and Jane L. Parpart. “Feminism and Development: Theoretical Perspectives.” In Jane L. Parpart, M. Patricia Barriteau, and V. Eudine, Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development. (Ottawa: IDRC Books, 2000), chapter 3.
Fukuyama, Francis, The Origins of Political Order (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011)
Streeck, W., “How Will Capitalism End?” *New Left Review* 87 (May-June 2014)