Qualifying Exam in Comparative Politics

April 2018

I. Frequency and Structure of Examinations

The Comparative Politics Qualifying Exam will be offered on two consecutive days in June, according to the department’s schedule for exams. Students will be asked to answer a total of two questions: each answer should be between 15 and 25 pages in length including footnotes but not bibliography, diagrams, or tables.

Students will need mastery of the Comparative Politics Core List and one topic of their choice. Current choices are: Comparative Political Economy, Ideology and Culture, Institutions, Nations and Nationalism, Order and Violence, or Political Regimes and Transitions. The exam will take place over two days. At the start of each day, the student will be given the questions for that day’s segments (via email); students will answer one question from two or more options. Completed answers should be returned to the exam administrator eight hours later. (Answers should be returned as .doc or .pdf file.) Essays should be type-written, double-spaced, in 12-point font. While students are free to consult any written source, the text of the exam should be original. Although some copying or cutting and pasting of material that has been previously prepared will be permitted, standard rules of plagiarism apply.

Each answer will be read by the two faculty members in comparative politics. Students may receive “pass,” “not pass,” or (rarely) “high pass” on the exam. In accordance with departmental policy, students who do not pass the exam in their first attempt may retake the exam at a subsequent date. If a student fails to pass the entire exam in two attempts, their retention in the PhD program will be under review.

II. Preparation and Reading Lists

Students who wish to take the Comparative qualifying exam should consult with relevant faculty advisors about choosing among the topical lists. Students will be responsible for the Core List and one topical list.
Comparative Exam Core List, March 2018

Books and Book Chapters


**Articles**


Comparative Political Economy- Developed Economies


   1. Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of Business Enterprise*


5. Friedrich von Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (Chicago, 1944)


7. Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

8. Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics* (Picador)


10. Michal Kalecki, “Political Aspects of Full Employment”


Ideology and Culture


Raymond Williams, *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985).

Comparative Politics Exam Reading List: Comparative Institutions

Books:

Articles:
Nations and Nationalisms


Homi K. Bhabha (ed.), *Nation and Narration* (London and New York: Routledge, 1990), chapter one.


Order and Violence Comparative Politics Exam List

Books


**Articles**

Political Regimes and Transitions Reading List


