

## Comparative Politics

Because comparative politics embraces such a wide range of issues and such a large literature, the following is offered only as a guide for students preparing it as a field. It is not an exhaustive statement about the nature of comparative politics, nor what it means to be a well-trained student of it; nor is it a proclamation of rules and regulations. Rather, it seeks to simplify the task of preparation for the Comprehensive Examinations in Comparative Politics by providing greater definition and guidance.

Students should be familiar with the most significant theories, methodologies and conceptual frameworks and approaches in the field. To demonstrate command of theoretical approaches, the student must know, and be able to compare, the presuppositions of relevant theories, their logical structures, and their range of applications both to substantive issues and to specific countries or regions of the world.

**In order to prepare for the examinations, all Ph.D. students with Comparative Politics as a major field must take POLI 628 as well as at least two region-specific comparative politics courses.**

The Written Comprehensive examination will consist of two sections. The student will answer two questions from the section covering Theoretical Approaches, and two questions from the section on Regional Expertise. The examination will last four hours. A rotating four-member committee will solicit questions from the subfield and compose the Comprehensive Examination. The same committee (plus appropriate regional experts if they are not already represented on the committee) will grade the exam.

### 1. Theoretical Approaches

Students must demonstrate their knowledge of the most significant literature in topics such as:

- ✓ Approaches and methodologies (including the historical development of the field)
- ✓ Political culture, civil society, and citizens' participation
- ✓ Nationalism, ethnicity, religion, class, and gender
- ✓ Institutions and institutional change
- ✓ Regime change (esp. democratization and revolution)
- ✓ Political parties and electoral behaviour
- ✓ Legislative politics and public policy
- ✓ Political economy and economic development

A list of core readings is available. These readings are intended to be a guide to the major debates and key contributions within Comparative Politics.

### 2. Regional Expertise

Knowledge of key theoretical approaches and core categories of comparative inquiry must be supplemented by regional expertise. Each student must demonstrate command of the literature on the politics of two sets of countries/regional areas chosen from: Latin America; Africa; West Europe; East Europe and the former Soviet Union; the European Union; the United States and Canada; the Middle East; East Asia; South Asia; Southeast Asia; and/or another region as approved by the subfield.

Note that any student taking the Canadian Politics Comprehensive Exam and selecting US/Canada as a regional field in the Comparative Politics Comprehensive Exam should expect to answer only questions on the United States.

***Important:* Students must consult with both the Field Coordinator and the individual faculty members with appropriate regional expertise at least six months prior to the written examination.**