

**Guidelines for Comprehensive Exams in Comparative Politics**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**The Pennsylvania State University**  
**December 2005**

The Comparative Politics comprehensive exam consists of two parts. All students sit for the first part, which is based on the core reading list provided below. Students majoring in Comparative politics also sit for the second part of the exam (minors take only the first part). In the second part of the exam, majors select 3 topic areas on which to be examined from the list below. Students should inform the subfield examiners of their specialized topics *at the beginning of the semester before they take their exams*. Students are also encouraged to inform subfield examiners of any regional specialization at that time. That is, if a student is taking the exam in May, subfield examiners should be notified of the specialized topic areas and regions in January.

The reading list for the specialized topics consists of the syllabus for the most recently completed graduate seminar on that topic taught in the Department (i.e. if a student takes an exam in January when a course is being offered, he/she need not focus on that syllabus, but rather the previous one). Our list of topics is therefore constrained by the advanced courses that have been taught in recent years. As of Fall 2005, this list is as follows:

- Parties and Elections
- Social Movements and  
Revolutions
- Regimes and Transitions
- Comparative Political  
Behavior/Public Opinion
- Politics of Development

In addition, the comparative politics faculty offers work in six regional areas. Majors are expected to make a special effort to draw from the relevant literature in one of the offered regions when answering questions dealing with the above specialty areas. These regions are:

Africa – Henderson, Mengisteab  
Western Europe – Banaszak  
East-Central Europe – Bernhard  
South-east Asia – Casper  
Latin America – Myers  
Russia and the former Soviet Union – Bahry

## Core Bibliography

The reading list below constitutes the core for all students. Readings have been chosen to include, where possible, works that provide comprehensive or especially helpful reviews of the literature, especially classic works, as these classic works have not always been assigned on their own. As in studying for any comprehensive exam, students should make an effort to develop an understanding of the chronology of development of the literature. While the list below represents a core, the best answers are likely to include reference to classics that go beyond what is apparent from secondary treatments of them as well as reference to the most important recent works on the topic that may have been published in the past two-three years in the major journals (especially APSR, AJPS, JOP, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, and World Politics) and therefore not reflected in the reading list or syllabi. Students may also find it helpful, in acquiring a feel for the development of the field over time, to consult reference edited works such as Finifter's *State of the Discipline* or *Annual Reviews*, other similar handbooks, encyclopedias, and sources of critical literature reviews such as Ruth Lane's *The Art of Comparative Politics*. Finally, students should understand that many of the readings below are of importance across different subfields in comparative politics, and better answers will thus make use of readings from throughout the reading list. The list is divided, for convenience, into fields which are by necessity somewhat arbitrary at their margins. No work is listed in more than one field in the list below.

### Comparative Methods

1. Brady, Henry E. and Collier, David, eds. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Pub.
2. Michael Coppedge. 1999. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large-N and Small-N in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* 31: 465-476.
3. Geddes, Barbara. 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
4. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
5. Mahoney, James and Rueschemeyer, Dietrich, eds. 2003. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Ragin, Charles. 1987. *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley. University of California Press

### Democratic Institutions

7. Cox, Gary. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
8. Lijphart, Arend. *Patterns of Democracy*. (New Haven: Yale University Press).

9. Lijphart, Arend. *Electoral Systems and Party Systems*. (Oxford and NY: Oxford University Press.)
10. Shugart, Matthew, and John Carey. *Presidents and Assemblies*. (New York: Cambridge University press).
11. Taagepera, Rein, and Matthew Shugart. 1989. *Seats and Votes*. (New Haven: Yale University Press.)
12. Tsebelis, George. 2002. *Veto Players: How Political Institutions Work*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

### **Public Opinion/Participation**

13. Almond, Gabriel and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The Civic Culture*. (Boston: Little Brown).
14. Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press).
15. Greif, Avner. "Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies" *The Journal of Political Economy* 102 (October) 912-50.
16. Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. (New York: Cambridge University Press).
17. Verba, Sidney, Norman Nie, Jae-on Kim. 1978. *Participation and Political Equality*. (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press).
18. Barnes, Samuel, and Max Kaase, eds. 1979. *Political Action: Mass Participation in Five Western Democracies*. (Beverly Hills: Sage).
19. Dalton, Russell. 2002. *Citizen Politics*. (NY: Chatham House).

### **Social Movements and Revolutions**

20. Foran, John. 1997. *Theorizing Revolution: New Approaches from Across the Disciplines*. London & New York: Routledge.
21. Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

22. Kitchelt, Herbert. 1986. "Political Opportunity Structure and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies. *British Journal of Political Science*, 16, pp. 57-85.
23. McAdam, Douglas; McCarthy, John; and Mayer Zald. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
24. McAdam, Douglas; Tarrow, Sidney; and Charles Tilly. 2001. *Dynamics of Contention*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
25. Tarrow, Sidney. 1998. *Power in Movement*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **Regimes and Transitions**

26. Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
27. Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pages 1-47.
28. Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. 1995. *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
29. Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
30. O'Donnell, Guillermo and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
31. Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **The State**

32. Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. (New Haven: Yale University Press)
33. Linz, Juan J. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner).
34. Poggi, Gianfranco. 1978. *The Development of the Modern State* (Stanford: Stanford University Press).
35. Scott, James. 1999. *Seeing Like a State*. (New Haven: Yale University Press).
36. Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States & Social Revolutions*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

37. Weber, Max. 1977. *Economy and Society*. 2 vols. (Berkeley: University of California Press). "Basic Sociological Terms" pp. 24-56, "Types of Legitimate Domination" pp. 212-2999, "Domination and Legitimacy" pp. 941-954.

### **Urban Politics**

38. Beauregard, Robert A. 1989. *Atop the Urban Hierarchy*. Totona, NJ.: Rowman and Littlefield
39. Falleti, Tulia. 2005. "A Sequential Theory of Decentralization: Latin American Cases in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 99, 3 (August). 327-346.
40. Forrest, Joshua. 2004. *Subnationalism in Africa. Ethnicity, Alliances, and Politics*. Boulder, CO. Lynne Rienner.
41. Gilbert, Alan. 1998. *The Latin American City*. New York, NY: The Monthly Review Press.
42. Bowman, Ann O'M and Michael A. Pagano. 2004. *Terra Incognita: Vacant Land and Urban Strategies*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
43. Perry, David C. ed. 1995. *Building the Public City: The Politics, Governance, and Finance of Public Infrastructure*. Newbury Park, CA.: Sage.

### **Comparative Political Economy**

44. Bates, Robert. 1981. *States and Markets in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Economic Policy* (Berkeley: University of California Press).
45. Katzenstein, Peter J. 1985. *Small States in World Markets: Industrial Policy in Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press).
46. Levi, Margaret. 1989. *Of Rule and Revenue*. (Berkeley: University of California Press).
47. Przeworski, Adam, et al. 2000. *Democracy and Development, Political Institutions and the Well-Being of the World, 1950-2000*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
48. Rogowski, Ronald. 1990. *Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).