The Comparative Politics comprehensive exam consists of two parts, morning and afternoon. Majors sit for both the morning and afternoon parts. Minors sit for the morning part only.

The morning part is based on the core reading list provided below, plus the most recent syllabus for the core course (Pl Sc 550). In the afternoon part of the exam (for majors only), students select 3 specialized topic areas on which to be examined from the list below. Majors should inform the subfield examiners of their specialized topics at the beginning of the semester before they take their exams. Majors 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. If a student is taking the exam in August/September, the examiners should be notified in May.

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. For fall 2011 and spring 2012, this list includes courses taught through the spring of 2010, as follows:

- Authoritarian Regimes - Wright, Pl Sc 597, spring 2010
- Civil Conflict - Casper, Pl Sc 597A, spring 2011
- Comparative Political Behavior/Public Opinion - Banaszak, Pl Sc 597, spring 2008
- Comparative Political Transitions - Casper, Pl Sc 551, spring 2010
- Comparative Institutions – Political Economy – Yadav, Pl Sc 551, spring 2011
- Gender and Domestic Politics – Banaszak, Pl Sc 597A, fall 2009
- Judicial Politics - Zorn, Pl Sc 597a, fall 2010
- Parties and Elections – Monroe, Pl Sc 597, spring 2007
- Politics of Development - Wright, Pl Sc 554, fall 2010
- Social Movements and Revolutions - Banaszak, Pl Sc 552, spring 2007
CORE READING LIST

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 understand the development of the literature over time, noting key contributions and controversies. 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 works such as the Oxford Handbooks or Annual Reviews of Political Science, other similar handbooks, encyclopedias, and sources of critical literature reviews. 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. (And note that some readings are included under more than one topic/subfield.) The list is divided, for convenience, into fields which are by necessity somewhat arbitrary at their margins.

A. GENERAL

B. DEMOCRATIZATION


C. AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES


**D. POLITICAL OPINION AND MASS BEHAVIOR**


**E. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**


**F. DEVELOPMENT**


G. CIVIL CONFLICT


H. THE STATE


I. COMPARATIVE METHODS


J. COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY


K. COMPARATIVE JUDICIAL POLITICS

L. COMPARATIVE INSTITUTIONS – GENERAL


M. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND PARTY SYSTEMS


N. FEDERALISM/REGIONAL/LOCAL POLITICS


**O. INSTITUTIONS AND IDENTITY FORMATION**


P. EXECUTIVES AND LEGISLATURES