This survey of major topics in comparative politics is designed for Ph.D. students wanting to familiarize themselves with the subfield, its evolution, and emerging research questions and controversies. It considers works of theoretical importance dealing with politics in the developed and developing world. Each week the course discusses a subsection of the pertinent scholarly literature, usually focusing on a major theoretical controversy. Key methodological issues in the study of comparative politics are addressed in the context of these substantive and theoretical works. Because this is a reading and discussion course, active student participation is essential.

**Enrollment:** The main audience is Ph.D. candidates in the Government Department. Enrollment is with consent of the instructors. There are no formal prerequisites.

**Requirements:** Each student is expected to complete all the required reading each week and to contribute to the collective discussion.

In addition, each student will write six short papers during the semester; each paper should be no more than seven double-spaced pages, normal type size, times font. Please organize your schedule so that you will submit *three papers to each instructor* by the end of the term. These papers need not be based on any additional reading beyond the required reading.

All papers must be submitted on paper to the relevant instructor no later than 2:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the given seminar session.

The object of the papers should be to analyze one or more central issues that the assigned reading for the week addresses, to locate the principal authors’ positions vis-à-vis those issues, and to comment critically on the state of the debate and the value of the individual contributions to it. You should keep the following questions in mind:

* What are the central issues at stake in this literature?
* What are the principal arguments of the works under study?
* How does each relate to the debates in the field?
* What are the main theoretical or empirical strengths or weaknesses of the major studies?
* How valuable and viable is the theory that each proposes?
* How effectively does it marshal empirical evidence in support of the argument?
* How well have the scholarly disputes been resolved and what further work might still be done to resolve them?
The paper should not be a mere summary of the readings but a critical commentary and a discussion of the issues that arise in the works. Good papers are the product of original thought and set forth a distinct hypothesis or interpretation of the relevant issues. Prose style matters. Be focused, terse, and selective. Proofread your papers for typos and grammatical errors before submitting them.

The papers will be evaluated according to the effectiveness and insight with which they illuminate the principal debates and scholarly contributions to them in an independent and critically-minded way. They cannot cover all the conceivable issues and need not cover all the assigned readings, though broad coverage is desirable.

There are no other requirements for this course. Students should not plan to write long research seminar papers in this course. There are no exams. All of the work in the course will be concluded by the winter recess.

**Course materials:** On each topic the readings are designed to include insofar as possible: (1) landmark studies that stimulated and shaped subsequent research on the topic; (2) analytical surveys of the work that has been done on the topic; (3) studies setting forth different views on major controversial issues concerning the topic; and (4) recent studies that reflect the current state of work on the topics.

A set of all course reading materials is available in the Government Department Office.

**Grading:** Class participation will count for one-fifth of the final grade. Each short paper will count for about 13 percent of the final grade.

**Office Hours:** Both instructors are available to meet with students outside of class about the issues discussed in the seminar.

Professor Domínguez’s office is at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, CGIS Knafel Building, 1737 Cambridge Street, K216. His office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:15-12 or by appointment. His office telephone number is 617-495-5982. His e-mail address is jorge_dominguez@harvard.edu. His executive assistant is Kathleen Hoover, khoover@wcfia.harvard.edu.

Professor Remington’s office is at the CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street, S313. His office hours are Tuesdays 1:30-3:00 PM. His office telephone number is 617-495-7697. His email address is tremingt@fas.harvard.edu.
Class Schedule

1. Sept 17   Introduction (Domínguez and Remington)
2. Sept 24   Methodology in Comparative Politics (Domínguez)
3. Oct 1     Political Orders and Regime Emergence (Domínguez)
4. Oct 8     Regimes, Democratization, and Authoritarianism (Remington)
5. Oct 15    Political Participation and Contentious Politics (Domínguez)
6. Oct 22    Political Parties, Voters, and Electoral Alignments (Remington)
7. Oct 29    Political Culture and Civil Society (Remington)
8. Nov 5     Political Economy of Development (Domínguez)
9. Nov 12    Political Economy of Advanced Democracies (Remington)
10. Nov 19   Ethnicity, Nationalism and Citizenship (Domínguez)
11. Nov 26   The State, Bureaucracy, and Federalism (Remington)
12. Dec 3     Executive, Legislative and Judicial Institutions (Remington)
13. Dec 10   The International Context (Domínguez)
Week 2 (September 24): Methodology in Comparative Politics

(Discussion leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


Brady, Henry, and David Collier, Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards, chapter 1 (pp. 3-20) and chapter 6 (pp. 85-102).
Additional Sources:


Lakatos, Imre, and Alan Musgrave, *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, (1970) [Chs. by Kuhn, Popper, and Lakatos].


Week 3 (October 1): Political Orders and Regime Emergence

(Discussion Leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Chenery, Hollis, Redistribution with Growth (London: Oxford University Press, 1974).


Week 4 (October 8): Regimes, Democratization, and Authoritarianism

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, 2nd


Herz, John H., ed., From Dictatorship to Democracy: Coping with the Legacies of Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982).


Rueschemeyer, Dietrich, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens, Capitalist


Week 5 (October 15): Political Participation and Contentious Politics

(Discussion leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Week 6 (October 22): Political Parties, Voters, and Electoral Alignments

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Pempel, T. J., “Introduction” in T. J. Pempel (ed.), *Uncommon Democracies: The One-


Week 7 (October 29): Political Culture and Civil Society

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba, eds., *The Civic Culture* (Boston: Little, Brown, paperback, 1963), chapters 1 (pp. 1-44), 5 (117-135), and 13 (pp. 337-374).


Additional Sources:


Week 8 (November 5): Political Economy of Development

(Discussion leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


**Additional Sources:**


Week 9 (November 12): Political Economy of Advanced Democracies

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Przeworski, Adam, Capitalism and Social Democracy (Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press, 1985).


Week 10 (November 19): Ethnicity, Nationalism and Citizenship

(Discussion leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


Fearon, James, and David Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” American Political Science Review. 97(1), 2003, pp. 75-90.


Additional Sources:


Horowitz, Donald L., *A Democratic South Africa?: Constitutional Engineering in a*


Snyder, Jack, From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict (New York: W. W. Norton, 2000), chap. 1 (pp. 15-44).


Week 11 (November 26): The State, Bureaucracy, and Federalism

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Krasner, Stephen, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)” Foreign Policy, 7, (Summer 1972), pp. 159-179.


Skowronek, Stephen, Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), chaps. 1 and 2; and


Week 12 (December 3): Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Institutions

(Discussion leader: Remington)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Week 13 (December 10): The International Context

(Discussion leader: Domínguez)

Required Reading:


Additional Sources:


Cardoso, Fernando Henrique, and Enzo Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (University of California, 1979).


