ISSUES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Political Science, G6403
Columbia University, Fall 2009
Tuesday: 2.10 – 4.00
Location IAB 902

Prof. Victoria Murillo
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This seminar exposes students to the main questions motivating research in comparative politics, but it is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of the classic works in the field. Students are expected to read closely and are encouraged, both in class discussions and in their written work, to critically evaluate the literature and to think of ways to improve upon it.

This course is intended for PhD students preparing for their qualifying exams and enrollment is limited. Doctoral students will be given priority and the requirements of the PhD program will be considered if it is necessary to establish priority among them.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The requirements are as follows:

Class Participation – 20% of the final grade. Students are expected to read the assigned works closely and will be graded on both their knowledge of the material and their contributions in the seminar.

3 Response Papers – 10% of the final grade each – Every four weeks, the student should submit a short paper, which is due at 9am the Monday before class. Response papers will advance an argument related to one of the readings for the week. The best papers will make an original argument and present a critical summary of the existing research on a question raised in that week. The papers need not cover all the readings in a given week, but they do need to present an argument based on those readings. All research papers are due by 9am on the Monday before class and should be posted on the class website on Courseworks. Students will be expected to be familiar with their colleagues’ papers.

Practice Comp – December 2nd - 50 % of the final grade. In the final class session students will have an hour to answer one out of three questions posed.
READINGS

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Approaches to the Study of Motivations


Recommended


Session 3: Approaches to the Study of Institutions


Recommended


Session 4: The State


Recommended


Session 5: Political Regimes


Recommended


**Session 6: Interest Organization and Representation**


**Session 7: Identity Politics**


**Recommended**

Session 8: Collective Action and Contentious Mobilization


Skocpol, Theda. 1979. States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.


Recommended


Session 9: Political Institutions


Calvo, Ernesto. 2009. The competitive road to proportional representation: partisan biases and electoral regimes under increasing party competition. World Politics. 61:2, 254-295.


Recommended


No Session (11/4) ELECTION DAY.

Session 10: Parties and Elections


Keefer, Phil and Khemani, Stuti. 2009. When do legislators pass on pork? The role of political parties in determining legislator effort. American Political Science Review, 103: 1, 99-112

Recommended


Boix, Carles. 1998. Political Parties, Growth and Equality: Conservative and Social Democratic


**Session 11: Political Economy I: Interests and Coalitions**


**Recommended**


**Session 12: Political Economy II: The impact of regimes and institutions**


Schneider, Ben Ross and Soskice, David. 2009. Inequality in developed countries and Latin America:

Schrank, Andrew. 2009. Understanding Latin American political economy; varieties of capitalism or fiscal sociology? *Economy and Society*. 38: 1, 53-61

**Recommended**


**Session 13: Practice Comp**