COURSE DESCRIPTION
This survey of major topics in comparative politics is intended for PhD students. Its purpose is to introduce major theoretical and conceptual aspects of the field. The course proceeds thematically. Each week a short introductory lecture is followed by discussion.

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<td>How do the rules influence who wins? Elections and Electoral Systems</td>
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<td>How governments form, and why they fail? Executives, Legislatures and Coalitions</td>
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<td>Why not abuse public office? Corruption and Rent Seeking</td>
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
*Class Participation:* 25%. Each student is expected to attend class regularly and to contribute to the discussion based on assigned readings.

*Exams:* 75%. There will be three take-home exams modeled on the comparative politics subfield preliminary exam. You will be asked 2 out of 3 analytical questions (please do not summarize the readings) and graded on your ability to apply theory and critique its empirical tests.

The due dates for the exams are: 24 February, 30 March, and 20 April.

BOOK:
Clark, William R., Golder, Matt, and Golder, Sona N. 2009. *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. We will read chapters throughout the course, and this is also a very useful reference and background guide.
COURSE READINGS:

1. Introduction: What we talk about when we talk about comparative politics?


2. Why are some countries democracies? Regimes and their Origins
   CGG: Chapter 6


4. Who is “Us”? Ethnic politics and Nationalism


Hale, Henry. 2004 “Explaining Ethnicity.” Comparative Political Studies: 458- 485. OR


5. Why can’t we get our act together? Collective Action and Common Pool Problems


6. What happens when we do? Interest Groups, Civil Society, and Mobilization


7. Why Political Parties?


**8. What are the rules and how do they work? Political Institutions**


**10. How governments form, and why they fail? Presidents, Parliaments, and Coalitions**


11. Who enforces, executes, and extracts? The State and its Origins

CCG, Chapter 4.


OR


12. When do things fall apart? Civil Wars, Conflict, and Revolution


**13. Why not abuse public office? Corruption and Rent Seeking**


