**COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CP)**

**Field Description**
“Comparative politics is the focus of research of seventeen POIR faculty. Their interests include democratization, political economy, law, subnational politics, state-society relations and women in development. These faculty have regional expertise in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa. Their publications include a large number of articles in top political science journals (*Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, World Politics, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly*), premier policy journals (*Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Governance*), and leading university presses (Cambridge, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford).”

**Core Faculty**
Laurie Brand  
Robert English  
Patrick James  
David Kang  
Saori N. Katada  
Daniel Lynch  
Gerardo Munck*  
Diana O’Brien  
Alison Renteln  
Stan Rosen  
Eliz Sanasarian  
Wayne Sandholtz  
Mary Sarotte  
Jefferey Sellers*  
Nick Weller  
Carol Wise  
*Field co-coordinators

**Field Requirements**
Students concentrating in Comparative Politics are required to take one core seminar (POIR 640) and three or four elective courses (from the list of courses provided by the field coordinator/s) depending on whether or not comparative politics is an examined field; to earn credit, a grade of B or better is needed on each course. A field examination is required except for students who take comparative politics as a third field. Proficiency in a language other than English is strongly recommended.

Catalogue description of core seminar: POIR 640 Comparative Politics (4 units) Survey of literature; examination of approaches, concepts, and issues in the field of comparative politics. (NOTE: The seminar is designed in coordination with the field reading list, and is intended to provide an overview of the field and preparation for the field examination.)

**Courses in Comparative Politics**
The list of courses that have been considered as comparative politics courses are:  
POIR 640: Comparative Politics (Required)  
PS 525: Cities, Regions & Global Society  
PS 535: Seminar in No. African & Middle Eastern Politics
PS 539: Political Economy and Public Policy
PS 554: Women in Global Perspective
PS 610: Seminar in Political Parties
PS 611: Seminar in Executive & Legislative Processes
PS 630: Seminar in European Politics
PS 632: Seminar in Latin American Politics
PS 633: Seminar in East Asian Politics
PS 634: Seminar in Southeast Asian Politics
PS 636: Seminar in African Politics
PS 637: Seminar in Chinese Politics
PS 640: Seminar in Problems of Comparative Politics
PS 641: Seminar in Comparative Judicial Policies, Processes & Behavior
PS 648: International Human Rights Law & Policy
PS 670: Seminar in International Law
PS 695: Social Science Theory
IR 526: Migration and Diaspora
IR 540: Religion and Conflict
IR 555: Democracy and Democratization
IR 599: Advanced Field Research Methods in Comparative Politics & IR

In addition, courses in religion and conflict, democratization, and human rights, have been considered comparative courses.

Beginning in 2011-2012, any course that will be counted toward the Comparative Politics field requirement must focus predominantly on the comparative explanation of politics within countries. Faculty members are encouraged to request that courses they teach be included in the field. In order for a course to be included, the syllabus for the course must be approved by the field coordinators in consultation with the relevant faculty member. Faculty may appeal the decisions of the coordinators to the full Comparative Politics faculty.

The core seminar in Comparative Politics will be a POIR course. In addition, we consider that many new comparative courses at the PhD level should be introduced under POIR prefix. An annual meeting will be held to coordinate the offerings in comparative politics. The timing of this meeting would be just ahead of the time when the unit heads decide on the courses to be taught.

Field Reading List
A recommended reading list for the field exam is maintained by the field co-coordinators and updated periodically. As new areas of scholarship evolve, these will be included in the reading list. However, addition to the list should be balanced through the removal of some items. The qualifying exam is designed to test mastery of a broad coverage of research programs and areas within the field, along with overarching concepts, themes and approaches. It is compiled for each administration by the field coordinators in collaboration with faculty teaching in the field.

Language Requirement
Language training is strongly encouraged but not required. To ensure language competence, prospective students are encouraged to begin development of language skills for their area of specialization before entering the program. Faculty advisors may encourage individual students to acquire additional language or methodological skills for specific research programs.