Comparative Politics Field Survey II  
Spring 2017

Instructor: Kimuli Kasara | kk2432@columbia.edu  
Location: Tues 4:10pm-6:00pm, 711 IAB

Overview

This seminar is the second of a two course sequence surveying major research questions in comparative politics. Students need not have taken the first course in this sequence. The entire syllabus for both courses can be found in the [Comps Exam Handbook](#).

There are few required readings, so you are expected to read each *carefully* and to come to class prepared to discuss them. While reading consider the following questions:

- Does the authors’ argument and evidence make sense on their own terms?
- How does this reading fit into contemporaneous theoretical and methodological debates in the discipline?
- How well does this work stand up to recent theoretical arguments, methodological advances, and political events?
- How can I most usefully contribute to answering this research question?

This course is primarily intended for PhD students preparing for their qualifying exams and enrollment is limited to 18 students. Students not in the PhD program need my permission to take the class.

Requirements and Evaluation

- **Class Participation** – 20% of the final grade.
- **Three Response Papers** – 15% of the final grade each. Students will submit a short paper making an argument related to the week’s readings. Response papers should be less than 1,500 words long. Response papers are due on 9am the Monday before class meets and should be posted to the [class page](#). You are expected to read and be prepared to comment on other students’ response papers.
To ensure that all topics are adequately covered, please fill out this form indicating your preferred week to write a response paper by 5pm on January 19th.

- **Final Exam** – 35% of the final grade. On April 25th students will take a practice comprehensive exam.

**Reading**

**Jan 17 – Introduction**

**Jan 24 – Institutions**


**Jan 31 – The State, Institutions, & State Strength I: Origins**


Feb 7 – The State, Institutions, & State Strength II: Bureaucracies


Feb 14 – Political Violence


- Steven I Wilkinson. *Votes and violence: Electoral competition and ethnic riots in India*. Cambridge University Press, 2006


**Feb 21 – Non-Democratic Systems**


**Feb 28 – Parties & Democratic Systems**


Mar 7 – Voting & Elections I: Electoral Systems


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Mar 14 – Spring Break

Mar 21 – Electoral Participation


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**Mar 28 – Voting & Elections: Vote Choice**


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### Apr 4 – Inequality & Polarization


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• Torben Iversen. *Contested economic institutions: The politics of macroeconomics and wage bargaining in advanced democracies*. Cambridge University Press, 1999


Apr 11 – Corruption


Apr 18 – Growth


Apr 25 – Final Exam