

Comparative Politics
Spring 2011

Directions:

- Please put your Student ID number at the top of each page of your examination. **DO NOT** write your name anywhere on the examination.
- Number your pages consecutively for the entire examination.
- Submit a cover page with your responses that lists the following: ID number, type of exam completed (e.g. MA major, MA minor) and examination area, as well as the semester in which you are taking the exam.
- Cite sources throughout your essay, where appropriate, using standard format and provide a single bibliography that includes all the materials used in preparing your answers.
- Clearly label each answer with the number of question you are answering.
- Budget your time carefully, including time to think and organize while preparing and writing the answers. Focus on preparing coherent, well-organized essays that not only demonstrate your mastery of the literature, but also indicate how the literature expands our collective knowledge.
- Students are expected to work independently on this examination and not discuss the essay items and responses with others. Any questions about exam procedures should be directed to the convener.

MA Majors – please answer one question from each section for a total of four.

MA Minors – please answer three questions. Do not select more than one question from any one section.

Section A

1. What is the comparative method? Provide specific illustrations of how it has been used in comparative politics.
2. What is selection bias and can it be overcome?

Section B

3. What is the “state of new institutionalism” in comparative politics? Your answer must address theoretical/conceptual and empirical aspects of the “state of new institutionalism.
4. Take a political economy perspective and map out a rationalist dynamic based on classical and/or neo-classical assumptions. Relate it to some substantive area in comparative politics, such as democracy, institutions, voting, or nationalism.

Section C

5. Identify and explain two major issues in the democratization literature. Your explanation must include both theoretical and methodological components.
6. In China today a free market economy seems to co-exist easily with an authoritarian state. What is the relationship between market freedom and political freedom? Do market freedoms lead to more political freedom? You may refer to one or more specific country cases (and need not necessarily discuss China), and/or discuss broader multi-country studies.

Section D

7. What is a modern state? Why and how did it develop?
8. What explains the variety of approaches and different levels of commitment to economic equality in different states?