

CONCLUSIONS AND REVIEW SESSION FOR THE FINAL EXAM

Comparative Politics

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IE University

Agenda for today

- Overview of the semester

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- Final exam mechanics

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- Tips for succeeding in the exam

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- Q&A about the topics covered in this course

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- Wrap up

Overview of the semester

We have covered a wide range of topics...

- Comparative politics and the state:

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- **Comparative politics and the state:**
 - The approach and methods of comparative politics

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 - The nature, formation, and development of states

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- Lectures

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- Designing, researching, and writing your research designs

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4. **Demonstrate social scientific literacy**, including basic quantitative literacy, and apply it to the study and discussion of politics.
5. **Use critical reading, autonomous research, and academic writing skills** to build and present cogent and evidence-based arguments about politics.

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- Using experimental and quasi-experimental designs to learn scientifically about politics
- Going beyond the naif view that democracy is self-sustaining, or that constitutional and legal rules are self-enforcing
- Taking seriously the interplay between political elites and formal rules; and the fact that there are often important trade-offs in the design of political institutions

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- You'll reach out if I can be of help in the future

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- **Research design (20%):**
 - 2-page write up, in pairs, due tonight
 - Remember: **you must sign up for a 5-minute in-person defense** at <https://cal.com/gtoral/research-design-defense>

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- **Preliminary final grade**

Preliminary grades posted on Blackboard

- **Adjusted exercise grade**
 - Average of your best 4 exercises
- **Adjusted quiz grade**
 - Average of your best 2 quizzes
- **Midterm grade**
 - Transformed from being over 30 to being over 100
- **Preliminary final grade**
 - Weights 60% midterm, 20% exercises, 20% quizzes

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 - So far, only 16% of you all have evaluated this course

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- Window to submit your feedback for this course closes tonight!

Final exam mechanics

Topics, sessions, and readings: First half

1. Introductions
- 2-3. Approach and method of comparative politics
- 4-5. The nature, formation, and development of states
- 6-7. Authoritarianism
- 8-9. Democracy
- 10-11. Parliamentarism and presidentialism
- 12-13. Elections and electoral systems
- 14-15. Review and midterm exam

Topics, sessions, and readings: Second half

- 16-17. Parties and party systems
- 18-19. Voters and electoral behavior
- 20-21. Subnational authorities
- 22-23. Courts
- 24-25. Interest groups and social movements
- 26-27. Bureaucrats
- 28-29. Review session (today)
- 30.** Final exam (December 18)

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 - Closed questions: true/false, multiple choice

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 - **Two groups together in a double room**

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- When you are done or want to leave, raise your hand until I come and collect your exam – only then you are allowed to leave

Tips for succeeding in the final exam

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- **Review your notes from class**, and compare notes with classmates
- **Review the quizzes and the midterm exam**, in particular questions you did not get full credit on

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- **Don't give equal weight to everything** – be strategic. For example, examples in lecture and in the readings are useful to review, but won't be directly covered in the exam.
- **Focus on understanding and being able to apply** the key concepts and theories

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- That said, it helps to be familiar with a variety of systems and cases (including those covered in the readings and in lecture) to help you answer questions.
- Be careful with having the system of just one country guide your answer, since that can be misleading. For example, keeping the United States alone in mind as a presidential system may lead you to believe that presidential systems have two-party systems, which would be incorrect.

Key authors to remember

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 - Schumpeter (democracy)
 - Dahl (democracy)
 - Przeworski (democracy)
 - Duverger (parties)
- The names of other authors discussed in the readings or lecture are not necessary to remember for the exam.

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- There may be **questions on how we study politics scientifically** (e.g., research design, threats to causal inference, experiments, etc)

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 - For full credit, you need to mark all the correct options and none of the incorrect ones. Marking an incorrect option will subtract as many points as marking a correct option. Plan accordingly.

Q&A about the topics covered so far

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Final words

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