REVIEW SESSION FOR THE MIDTERM EXAM

Comparative Politics

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Agenda for today

1. Midterm exam mechanics

2. Tips for succeeding in the exam

3. Q&A about the topics covered so far

4. Mock midterm exam

Midterm exam mechanics

Topics, sessions, and readings covered in the midterm

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. **Review session** (today)

15. **Midterm exam** (this coming Monday)

How the midterm works

- 20% of the grade

- Covers the readings + lectures + exercises in sessions 1-14

- Largely works as a quiz:

  - In person

  - Closed book

  - Closed questions: true/false, multiple choice

- Differently from a quiz:

  - On paper

  - 60-minute limit

  - More average time per question (about 2 minutes, vs 1'30"
    minutes in quizzes)

Rules on exam day

- You must bring your IE ID and a pen

- All your belongings must stay in the front of the room.

- All electronic devices must be turned off

- The big screens will have a timer on

- Nothikng allowed on the desk other than the exam and pen I'll give you (no water, cases, etc.)

- You cannot leave the room without handing your exam

- 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 midterm

Tips for preparing for the midterm

- Start early! There's quite a bit of material to review

- Review your notes on the readings, and do any readings you did not do

- Review your notes from class, and compare notes with classmates

- Review the slides and the handouts

- Review the quizzes, in particular questions you did not get full credit on

- Check your own knowledge by discussing topics with classmates, improving your notes

The politics or institutions of specific countries

- The exam will not have questions about the politics or the institutions of any one country, but 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 one country guide your answers. For instance, thinking of the United States alone as a presidential system may lead you to believe that presidental systems have two-party systems, which would be incorrect.

Key authors to remember

- The exam may have questions about a short number of authors
  – these are classics you need to be familiar with.

  - Weber
  - Hobbes
  - Tilly
  - Olson
  - Schumpeter
  - Dahl
  - Przeworski

- The names of other authors discussed in the readings or lecture
  are not necessary to remember for the exam.

Questions about empirics

- There may be questions on some of the empirical studies we have discussed in class (e.g., the correlations of presidentialism, the quasi-experiment on Spain's electoral systems, or the regressions on the Congo bandits and the mines)

- Expect questions asking you to interpret a regression table. You should be able to identify the key components, to interpret the findings reported in a regression table, and to relate that finding to theories we have covered in class.

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

Tips for taking the midterm

- Play by the rules. I have a **zero tolerance policy** with breaches of academic honesty. In line with **IE policy**, any breach of academic honesty standards in the exam will cause a 0 in the course as a whole.

- Don't stress *too much* about time (you have 2 minutes per question!) but do keep an eye on time and manage your remaining time accordingly

Tips for taking the midterm

- Keep in mind a question will contribute at least 0 points to your grade, so don't leave any questions unanswered. Make educated guesses if you don't know the answer to a question

- If Blackboard lets you mark more than one option, that's because more than one option is correct. For full credit, you need to mark all the correct options and none of the incorrect ones. There is partial credit. Marking an incorrect option will subtract as many points as marking a correct option. Plan accordingly.

Q&A about the topics covered so far

Ask me anything

- Anything you'd like us to revisit?

- A topic where you'd like me to clarify what's most important, or whether something in the books is not relevant for the exams?

- Shall we practice interpreting regression tables?

TABLE 2. Authoritarian Regime Breakdown

				DV: Authoritarian regime breakdown				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Rebel regime	−0.0481***	−0.0477***	−0.0574***	−0.0528***				
	(0.00918)	(0.0110)	(0.0113)	(0.0115)				
Col. liberation regime					−0.0448***	−0.0459***	−0.0511***	−0.0395***
					(0.00970)	(0.0124)	(0.0131)	(0.0147)
Civil war winner					−0.0540***	−0.0515***	−0.0679***	−0.0737***
					(0.0110)	(0.0121)	(0.0125)	(0.0129)
ln(GDP p.c.)		0.00203		−0.0151**		0.00193		−0.0184**
		(0.00516)		(0.00592)		(0.00524)		(0.00736)
ln(GDP p.c.) growth		−0.0885**		−0.0877**		−0.0877**		−0.0767**
		(0.0363)		(0.0363)		(0.0363)		(0.0378)
ln(oil & gas income p.c.)		−0.000192		0.000463		−0.000197		0.000575
		(0.000718)		(0.000722)		(0.000719)		(0.000744)
ln(population)			0.00878**	0.0205***			0.00839*	0.0223***
			(0.00432)	(0.00496)			(0.00438)	(0.00534)
Ethnic frac.			−0.00972	−0.00798			−0.00545	0.00168
			(0.0248)	(0.0240)			(0.0267)	(0.0265)
Religious frac.			0.0112	−0.00419			0.0132	−0.00368
			(0.0194)	(0.0208)			(0.0196)	(0.0210)
British colony			−0.00220	0.00100			−0.00376	−0.00168
			(0.0132)	(0.0132)			(0.0134)	(0.0132)
French colony			0.00884	0.00303			0.00740	−0.00109
			(0.0103)	(0.0110)			(0.0107)	(0.0118)
Portuguese colony			−0.00157	−0.0108			−0.00710	−0.0244
			(0.0145)	(0.0166)			(0.0151)	(0.0193)
Country-years	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352
R^2	0.013	0.042	0.043	0.047	0.013	0.042	0.043	0.048
Time controls?	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Year FE?	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES

Note: Table 2 presents linear regression estimates with standard error estimates clustered by country in parentheses. Every column controls for years since the last regime change and cubic splines. *$p < 0.10$, **$p < 0.05$, ***$p < 0.01$.

Regression table: Rebel regimes

Regression table: Spain's electoral systems

TABLE 3   *Effect of Ballot Structure on Voter Turnout: Open Versus Closed Lists*

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Turnout	Turnout	Turnout	Turnout	Turnout	Turnout
OL	1.031***	1.237***	1.156***	1.547***	1.844***	1.308**
	(0.381)	(0.395)	(0.407)	(0.431)	(0.491)	(0.641)
Observations	15,954	13,556	11,226	8798	6404	3976
Municipalities	2826	2597	2343	2079	1803	1512
Bandwidth	IK	0.85 × IK	0.70 × IK	0.55 × IK	0.40 × IK	0.25 × IK

Note: standard errors clustered by municipality in parentheses. All regressions include municipality and year fixed effects. IK refers to the minimum of Imbens and Kalyanaraman's (2012) bandwidth and 250 inhabitants. OL = open list system.
*p < 0.10, **p < 0.05, ***p < 0.01.

Regression table: Congo's miners

TABLE 4
ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF A STATE AND HOUSEHOLD WELFARE—EFFECT OF STATIONARY BANDITS

Variables	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Savings Index	No. of Weddings	No. of Immigrants	Welfare Index	Welfare Index	Welfare Index	Welfare Index	
				A. OLS				
Militia$_{jt}$	.05**	.16**	.46***	.24***	.20***			
	(.02)	(.06)	(.11)	(.06)	(.07)			
External$_{jt}$	.03	−.20***	−.13	−.07		−.04		
	(.03)	(.06)	(.11)	(.06)		(.07)		
Army$_{jt}$	.03	.25***	.42***	.32***			.48***	
	(.04)	(.08)	(.14)	(.08)			(.12)	
Observations	3,582	3,466	3,523	2,669	1,426	1,579	1,474	
R^2	.36	.54	.40	.51	.63	.63	.63	
Sample restriction	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
p-value:								
Militia = External	.56	.00	.00	.00				
FARDC = External	.93	.00	.00	.00				
Militia = FARDC	.54	.33	.80	.48				
				B. IV (2SLS)				
	Savings Index	No. of Weddings	No. of Immigrants	Welfare Index	Savings Index	No. of Weddings	No. of Immigrants	Welfare Index
SB$_{jt}$	.01	.26	1.70***	.71***	−.05	−.27**	.99***	.25
	(.09)	(.18)	(.45)	(.21)	(.08)	(.13)	(.35)	(.19)

Mock midterm exam

Mock midterm

- Posted on Blackboard

- You're free to take it as many times as you want, whenever you want

- You can see your grade as soon as you submit