

# 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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- Wrap up

## Overview of the semester

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  - Elections and electoral systems



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- Readings (20 chapters)
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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 naïf 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**

- 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.

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  - Schumpeter (democracy)
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  - Przeworski (democracy)
  - Duverger (parties)
- 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)

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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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## Q&A about the topics covered so far

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## Final words

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