

# Midterm Examination

## POLC-2300 “Introduction to Comparative Politics”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Professor:** Hector Bahamonde.

**Class meetings:** MWF 8:00-8:50.

**Location:** Stanley Thomas Hall 302.

### General Instructions

This exam begins at 8:00 and ends at 8:50 AM (CST). Late tests will not be received, and will be graded with a zero (0). This exam consists of 2 essays, and one short question. This exam is worth 25% of your grade. This exam has a total of 100 points. This exam is closed-book, covering material from the entire semester, up to February 23. Exam questions have been drawn from the readings, lectures and in-class discussions. Under no circumstances will the following items be accepted: personal notes, books, or written pieces of paper, among other items. The use of electronic devices (smart watches, tablets, laptops, cellphones, and others) are strictly prohibited. Violations will be sanctioned with a zero (0). The involved student will be sent to Tulane’s Office of Academic Integrity. Write in legible font. Hard-to-read handwriting will be penalized with points off. Use complete sentences; outlines and lists are not acceptable. Return this handout in full before leaving the classroom. You are free to leave the classroom at any point. However, once you leave, you are not allowed to make changes to this document.

### Essay Section

**Please answer TWO (2) of the following questions.** Each essay is worth 45% of the test. That is, if you get full credit in both, you will have 90 points. **Each answer should be at least one and a half pages long, but not be longer than two pages.** Answers shorter than one and a half pages long will receive ZERO (0) points. The official minimum is denoted by a “★” symbol. Please, answer the question. That is, (1) do not restate the question, (2) avoid giving an indirect answer. Whatever is beyond the second page, will not be read/graded. If there are more than TWO (2) answers, only the first two will be read/graded.

1. There is a big difference between studying the *effect of causes* and studying the *causes of effect*. Describe both approaches, and explain which one you think serves better comparative politics as a subfield, and why. Include in your answer (1) what the possible shortcomings of each are, (2) and the mechanism by which cases are selected.
2. Charles Tilly and Thomas Hobbes have very particular views about the origins of the state. Explain both theories. Then, explain what *necessary* and *sufficient* conditions are. According to Tilly and Hobbes, what are their corresponding *necessary* conditions for the emergence of the modern state?
3. Levitsky and Way explain that the strategy of adding adjectives to the concept of “democracy” suffers from a problem called “democratic bias.” Explain what that is, and provide at least one historical example. Then answer the following three questions: Does the concept of “competitive authoritarianism” suffer from “authoritarian bias”? What is a “competitive authoritarianism”? Finally, are political scientists better-off with or without this new concept? In other words, does this concept capture (fully or partially) the attributes of this new phenomenon?
4. Both Olson and Mann have very interesting theories about the relationship between taxation and the state. Explain both theories. That being said, does comparative politics have any theory that considers the relationship between the state and *democracy* (instead the state and taxation)?

### Short Question

This question is worth 10% of the test. That is, if you get the six regimes right, you will have 10 points.

1. Following Aristotle’s *Politics*, name the three virtuous regimes and their corresponding degenerations.

[illegible]

★

[illegible]

★

## Short question

Virtuous Regimes:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Corresponding Vicious Version:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Not intended for answer. This section won't be read/graded. This section is for you to help you organize your answers.

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