COMPARATIVE POLITICS FIELD CURRICULUM

The Comparative Politics field investigates politics by comparing its elements across different contexts. These elements include governing institutions and individual behavior.

In addition to the eclectic substantive interests, the Comparative Politics field is distinguished by its methodological diversity. Familiar approaches include rational choice models, historical institutionalism, process tracing, randomized experiments, survey research, qualitative case studies, mixed methods approaches, game theoretic approaches, Bayesian analysis, and large-N econometrics. Developing research skills is therefore critical for anyone hoping to engage the comparative politics literature.

The UC Irvine Department of Political Science’s five-course Comparative Politics curriculum introduces students to these various substantive foci and methodological tools, with the primary objective of preparing students to execute sophisticated original research within the realm of Comparative Politics.

1. All CP students must take the following “required courses:”

   --Research Design (includes logic of inquiry, and some or all of the following: comparative concepts, operationalization, data collection, cases, typological theorizing, methods)

   --Introduction to Comparative Political Behavior (includes voting, participation, public opinion, elections and feature “classics,” old and new)

   --Introduction to Comparative Politics Institutions (features standard “classics” on politics at macro level, old and new)

2. CP students must take at least two “elective courses” chosen from among the following*:

   Political Participation
   Public Choice
   Public Law
   Comparative Public Law
   Human Rights
   New and Old Democracies
   Qualitative Methods
   Citizenship
   Logical Models in the Social Sciences
   Comparative Constitutional Politics
   Comparative Judicial Politics
   Introduction to Game Theory

   Political Culture and Democracy
   Citizenship Politics
   Politics of Advanced Industrial Democracies
   Citizenship in Developing Countries
   State in Comparative Perspective
   Voting and Elections
   Latin American Politics
   Southeast Asian Politics
   E. Asia Political Economy
   Regime Change in East Asia
   US in Comparative Perspective
   Introduction to Voting Theory

* The Comparative Politics Field Coordinator will resolve answer any questions, resolve disputes, and/or grant waivers as needed.