Comparative Politics Subfield Reading List

This syllabus constitutes a basic reading list to prepare Ph.D. students for their oral exams for advancement to doctoral candidacy. It is organized into key literatures of the subfield, and presents a list of “essential readings” in each of these areas. This list is not exhaustive. It only marks the beginning of serious study at the doctoral level. You will likely augment this list with additional readings based on your qualifying papers, coursework, field of interest, region of interest, etc. The sections in which you devote the most attention should be guided by a conversation with your Chair and other members of your orals committee. Also, please note that you are not responsible for every section, nor do these lists include every subfield literature (e.g. state violence, social movements, civil conflict, democracy in developing countries, state breakdown, immigration, public policy). Please consult with your Chair and committee members about augmenting this list with literatures relevant to your interests.

In addition, students are expected to keep up with relevant and timely journal literature in political science. These include: American Political Science Review, Annual Review of Political Science, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Democracy, Perspectives on Politics, and World Politics. We also advise you to consult journals in your specialized area of research, as well as newsletters of associations and APSA sections as they pertain to your research interests, methodology, etc.

I. OVERVIEW AND STATE OF THE FIELD


II. METHODOLOGY OF THE FIELD


III. ESSENTIAL TEXTS


IV. THE STATE


### V. DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRATIZATION, AND BREAKDOWN


### VI. AUTHORITARIANISM


### VII. POLITICAL PARTIES


**VIII. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS**


**IX. POLITICAL CULTURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**


**X. PUBLIC OPINION**


**XI. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**


XII. ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR


XIII. INSTITUTIONS


XIV. NATIONALISM


XV. POLITICAL ECONOMY


**XVI. FORMAL MODELS**


