

POLI229: (SOME) TOP BOOKS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Instructor: Claire L. Adida

Spring 2015

Tuesdays 9-11.50am

SSB104

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm

Course Summary and Objectives

Graduate seminars in comparative politics tend to present ever-expanding syllabi that attempt to keep pace with a growing literature. As a result, graduate students rarely read books anymore. And yet, one of the first expectations for junior comparative politics faculty is to publish their dissertation as a book. The goal of this seminar is two-fold. First, to provide students an opportunity to emphasize depth over breadth by focusing on one book every week. Second, to expose students to the art of book-writing.

Requirements

Students will be graded based on class participation (60%) and a final exam (40%).

- Class participation (60%): Students are expected to complete all required readings for the week before the start of seminar on Tuesday. Because many students are facing comprehensive exams this quarter, students are allowed to miss 1 session with no penalty as long as they turn in a response paper (2-3 pages single-spaced) by email sent before the beginning of class that week. Students will be heavily penalized for missing more than 1 session, even if they turn in a response paper (though the penalty will be lower if they do). Students will be graded based on their active and thoughtful participation in class. This means that I will emphasize quality over quantity of student comments. However, students who attend and do not participate, or hardly participate, cannot perform well on this aspect of the course.
- Final exam (40%): Students will be asked to read a final CP book of their choice (to be approved by the instructor by Week 8) and to write a book review for submission to *Perspectives in Politics*. For more information on how to write and submit a book review for *Perspectives in Politics*, consult: <http://www.apsanet.org/perspectivessubmissions>. The book should be a recently-published book in comparative politics. It cannot be authored by a UCSD faculty member or by any of the student's previous advisors. Students are expected to follow submission guidelines, both in content and format, and to submit their work to *Perspectives in Politics*, as well as to the instructor (by emailing it in pdf format to cadida@ucsd.edu) by Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 9am. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Format

This class is a graduate seminar: active participation is required and expected. All electronic devices are banned during classtime. Here's why:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/>

Schedule

Tuesday, March 31, 2015	<u>The Thesis and the Book</u> Harman, Montagnes, McMenemy, Bucci Panel discussion: Simeon, Christina, Tom
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	<u>Markets and States in Tropical Africa</u> Robert H. Bates
Tuesday, April 14, 2015	<u>Political Topographies of the African State</u> Catherine Boone
Tuesday, April 21, 2015	<u>Hegemony and Culture</u> David D. Laitin
Tuesday, April 28, 2015	<u>Sons of the soil</u> Myron Weiner
Tuesday, May 5, 2015	<u>Theft of an Idol</u> Paul R. Brass
Tuesday, May 12, 2015	<u>Accountability without Democracy</u> Lily L. Tsai
Tuesday, May 19, 2015	<u>Factions and Finance in China</u> Victor Shih
Tuesday, May 26, 2015	<u>Colonialism and Post-colonial development</u> James Mahoney
Tuesday, June 2, 2015	<u>Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism</u> Stokes et al.