

# **POLI229: (SOME) TOP BOOKS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

Instructor: Claire L. Adida

Spring 2019

Tuesdays 12noon-2.50pm

SSB104

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-11.30am

## **Course Summary and Objectives**

Graduate seminars in comparative politics tend to present ever-growing syllabi that attempt to keep pace with a rich and expansive 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: (1) to provide students an opportunity to emphasize depth over breadth by focusing on one book every week; (2) to expose students to the art of book-writing. Students will also have a unique opportunity to engage with the book's author each week to ask about both content and process.

## **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.
  - We will be skyping in with the book's author each week. It is therefore the student's responsibility to prepare questions for the author about the book and the book-writing process. Each author is generously giving us 45 minutes to pick their brain; let's make it worth their time. To ensure high-quality discussion, each student is expected to send via email to the entire class two questions for the book's author. Questions are due by 5pm the Monday before class. Students are expected to do this even if they miss class that week. This requirement does not apply for Week 1.
- 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. 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.

### **Schedule**

April 2	<u>The Thesis and the Book</u> Harman, Montagnes, McMenemy, Bucci Panel discussion with Agustina Paglayan and Christina Schneider
April 9	<u>Dilemmas of Inclusion</u> Rafaela Dancygier
April 16	<u>Envy in Politics</u> Gwyneth McClendon
April 23	<u>Nations Under God</u> Anna Grzymala-Busse
April 30	<u>Elite Parties, Poor Voters</u> Tariq Thachil
May 7	<u>Forging the Franchise</u> Dawn Teele
May 14	<u>Electoral Politics and Africa's Urban Transition</u> Noah Nathan
May 21	<u>Voting Radical Right in Western Europe</u> Terri Givens
May 28	<u>Dictators and their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State violence</u> Sheena Greitens
June 4	Writing a book review

FINAL BOOK REVIEW DUE MONDAY JUNE 10 AT 11:30AM AT [CADIDA@UCSD.EDU](mailto:CADIDA@UCSD.EDU)  
IN PDF FORMAT