

**Department of Political Science, Yale University**  
**Field Examination in Comparative Politics**  
**January 2012**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a closed book, closed notes exam, with access to a clean copy of the reading list only. You are required to answer 3 questions (each answer comprises one-third of the exam grade), including 2 questions from Section A (#1-4) and 1 from Section B. The exam has a strict 21 page limit (double-space, 12 font). You have 7 hours.

*Section A. Answer 2 of the following 4 questions.*

1. Carles Boix's theory of democratization relies heavily on democratic peace theory. Please provide and discuss three examples of findings and/or conjectures in international relations that play a crucial role in theories of comparative politics. Can you identify additional areas that could benefit from more integration between the two subfields?
2. The study of clientelism and that of ethnic politics have developed somewhat independently. Yet, they are arguably closely related. Discuss the intersection between these literatures and implications of closer conversation between the two.
3. At least since Aristotle, students of comparative politics have sought to understand differences in regimes – whether distinguished broadly (e.g., democracies, autocracies) or more narrowly (e.g., monarchies, dominant-party states, one-party states or parliamentary vs. presidential vs. semi-presidential regimes). After nearly 2500 years, what do we know about the emergence of different regime types, their durability and dissolution? What questions remain to be answered?
4. Scholars of political parties have provided us with numerous theories of party and party system formation. A second central focus of the study of parties has been on examining how they forge ties with ordinary voters. Discuss the ways in which arguments of how parties form have informed our explanations of how they win votes. Is the nature of this intersection significantly different when examining industrialized democracies or less developed polities?

*Section B. Answer 1 of the following 2 questions.*

1. The Arab uprisings of 2011 exhibited considerable variation in terms of the eruption of protests (e.g. Egypt vs. Algeria), the type of oppositional challenge (e.g. Tunisia vs. Libya), the outcome (e.g. Libya vs. Syria), and the ability of governments to handle threats (e.g. Syria vs. Morocco). How do theories of comparative politics help us make sense of this variation?
2. Which theories of comparative politics and political economy can help us best analyze the political implications of the European debt crisis?