

## **Department of Political Science Comparative Politics Field Statement**

Karen Jusko  
Comparative Politics Field Convenor  
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### *Requirements for Comparative Politics as a Field:*

Students who wish to designate Comparative Politics as either a first or second subfield must take at least three graduate level courses listed under the Comparative Politics section of the University Bulletin. The exception is PS 349 (Directed Readings and Research in Comparative Politics). This course may count only if no graduate seminar on a given world region or substantive topic (e.g. political parties, the military in politics, elections) is offered during the student's pre-exam quarters here. The Director of Graduate Studies must approve a student's request to have a PS 349 course counted.

Students are strongly encouraged to take PS 440A, either 440B (for students interested in authoritarian regimes) or 444 (for students interested in democracies), and 440C.

The *Comparative Politics Workshop* (PS 440D) is an important forum for students to engage with new and exciting comparative politics research. It also offers students an opportunity to further integrate themselves into a professional community comprised of Stanford faculty, scholars from other institutions, and most importantly, of student peers at all stages of doctoral work. Students who designate Comparative Politics as their first field are required to enroll for at least one quarter and must present a paper in the Workshop in any quarter (and not necessarily the one in which they are enrolled). Comparative Politics students, regardless of enrollment, are strongly encouraged to attend the Workshop regularly.

### *Comprehensive Examination:*

Students are encouraged to take the general comprehensive examination at the end of their second year, when they are in a better position to show advanced knowledge of the subject matter.

The exam will consist of two parts. Part One will consist of general questions on the material covered in PS 440/444 sequence mentioned above. All students must answer two of these general questions, one based on either PS 440A, PS 440B, or 444, and another based on PS 440C. Part Two will consist of questions based on areas of specialty. Students must consult with the Graduate Administrator or the Field Convenor to specify the specialized course or courses on which they want to be examined. All students must answer one of these questions.