

Comprehensive Exam
Fall 2018
Comparative Politics
School of Public and International Affairs
University of Georgia

Morning

Instructions: answer **one** of the following questions. Indicate the question number and provide the text of the question at the start of your answer.

1. Name two works in comparative politics that you think have made the most important contributions to the field in terms of introducing new ideas that influenced future research. Explain why you have picked these two works. Discuss their initial contributions to knowledge, the research they have inspired, and how subsequent research may have falsified or verified their insights. What are the key unanswered questions remaining for the research agenda inspired by each work?

2. In comparative politics, what defines best practices in terms of creating theories and testing them empirically? With your answer to this question in mind, which approach to comparative political research do you think is most useful? (You may choose, for example: most similar systems design; most different systems design; case studies; the large-*n* statistical approach; or experiments. You are not limited to these approaches, however.) To argue in favor of your preferred approach, identify one testable hypothesis you feel the existing comparative politics literature has not adequately addressed. Then, discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of your preferred approach, as compared to those of other common approaches, both in general and as applied to the testing of your specific hypothesis.