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 Thursday. Students will be graded based on their active and thoughtful participation in class. This means that we 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 should submit a first draft of their lit review for their seminar paper (or the dissertation prospectus if 3rd year; or a research paper idea if 1st year). This final exam should identify:
  - The question the student is seeking to answer
  - The question(s) being answered by the books s/he read, and how these may be identical to, diverge from, or complement the question the student is asking
  - The answer(s) offered by each author, and
  - The reasoning (assumptions and theoretical development) that leads each author to expect (or explain post hoc) this answer
  - The way in which comparative and/or individual case analyses and narrative are used to buttress causal inference. In other words, how well does the research design and analysis (including qualitative analysis) help answer the question(s) and support the argument

The review should cover 3-5 books.
Format
This class is a graduate seminar: active participation is required and expected. All electronic devices are banned during classtime. Here’s why:

Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016  Claire Adida, Karen Ferree, Steph Haggard
Introduction, Expectations

Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016  Claire Adida
Multiethnic Coalitions in Africa (2013)
Leonardo Arriola

Thursday, October 6, 2016  Jesse Driscoll
Warlords and Coalition Politics in Post-Soviet States (2015)
Jesse Driscoll

Thursday, October 13, 2016  Steph Haggard
Competitive Authoritarianism (2010)
Levitsky and Way

Thursday, October 20, 2016  Tom Wong
Culling the masses (2014)
Fitzgerald and Cook-Martin

Recommended:
Imagined Communities (1983)
Benedict Anderson

Thursday, October 27, 2016  Karen Ferree
From Open Secrets to Secret Voting (2015)
Isabela Mares

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016  Megumi Naoi
The Efficient Secret (1987)
Gary Cox

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016  Phil Roeder
Why Leaders Fight (2015)
Horowitz, Stam and Ellis
Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016  Sam Popkin
Poor Economics (2011)
Duflo and Banerjee

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016  Simeon Nichter
Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism (2013)
Stokes et al.