

Directions: Answer THREE (3) questions: one question from Part I, one question from Part II, and one question from Part III. Your answers will be judged for their responsiveness to the specific question, their skilled and ample citation of the relevant literature, and their clarity of organization. Any arguments you advance should be defended against plausible counter-arguments. The material used in your answer to any question should not substantially overlap with the material used in other questions. Organize your answers and allocate your time evenly.

Part I Synoptic Questions on Field (Answer ONE and only one question from this section)

- 1) "Formal institutions can be easily redesigned, while informal institutions are harder to change and are therefore more critical to determining political outcomes." Agree or disagree.
- 2) In order to explain important political outcomes, some scholars point to the state, its institutions, and its actions, while other scholars say that societal factors outside the state are more important. Which do you think is true? Make sure to discuss the experience of at least one country in support of your answer.
- 3) Identity can be a powerful resource for organizing collective action, but it can also be one of the most powerful factors underlying negative outcomes, such as ethnic conflict and corruption. Evaluate the role of identity in shaping political outcomes, focusing especially on the tension between positive and negative effects.

Part II Specific Topic Questions (Answer ONE and only one question from this section)

- 4) Many regimes in the world today are "hybrid regimes." Does the existence of so many of these regimes challenge our current models of democratization? How best can we explain why some regimes successfully democratize and others fail to do so?
- 5) "A Social Movement Organization (SMO) is a complex, or formal, organization which identifies its goals with the preferences of a social movement or a countermovement and attempts to implement those goals." How have the contributions of McCarthy and Zald both added to our understanding of social movements and led to important critiques that have enriched the study of social movements?
- 6) Studies about the military and politics have dwindled in recent decades. Yet, across the globe we see evidence of the resurgence of the military in political life. Should this resurgence of military rule and power make us reconsider reigning approaches and theories of democratization? Have democratization theorists underestimated the vulnerability of civil society and oppositional political movements and the costs to mobilization?

Part III Practical Applications (Answer ONE and only one question from this section)

- 7) Which theories in comparative politics help explain the recent rise of populism and ethno-nationalism in politics, both in the US and globally? Is research on ethnicity and identity politics that emerged from comparative politics and was oriented more regionally also relevant to the emergence of ethno-nationalism and populism in democratic and wealthier nations?

- 8) You've just received a competitive internship at the Gates Foundation, which has just inaugurated a new program aimed at enhancing democracy abroad. In order to decide where the Foundation should spend its money, your boss has asked you to write a memo. In her email, she asks: "Many programs have aimed at strengthening civil society as a route to democracy. Do you think civil society always helps strengthen democracy, or are there other factors that are more important?" Answer this question with reference to the readings, and a concrete policy recommendation may win you a trip to the Foundation's next big conference in Seattle.
- 9) Consider measures of democracy, such as (but not limited to) Polity IV, V-Dem, and Freedom House. Convey the strengths and weaknesses of at least three such indicators, and then explain which you would use to compare hybrid regimes, and why. Give examples of hybrid regimes and state why you would use **one** set of indicators as opposed to others. You are not expected to know each nation's numerical value according to the measure, only explain the logic of choosing cases to study and which indicator you would use.

**Remember to Answer Three
Questions**

One from Part I, One from Part II, and One from Part III