

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION: COMPARATIVE POLITICS
MINOR FIELD
4 HOURS

Friday 13 March 2015

Ethnicity & Social Movements

You must answer a total of two (2) questions for this examination. You have four (4) hours to do so. You must answer one (1) question from the core section and one (1) question from your subfield section.

In your answers to any of the questions below, please be sure to present an argument and to refer to relevant readings and empirical examples.

SECTION 1. CORE QUESTIONS

1. Why are some institutions easily changed, whereas others persist despite no longer being functionally optimal or no longer serving dominant interests? Illustrate your argument using at least two empirical cases, one of institutional persistence and one of institutional change.
2. Does economic development cause political democracies to emerge? Outline the various positions in this debate. What do we know, and what do we not know about the relationship between democracy and development?

SECTION 2. ETHNICITY & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS QUESTIONS

1. Literature on ethnic politics can be divided into works that discuss more peaceful mobilization of ethnicity, such as ethnicity in electoral politics and public goods provision, and other works that attempt to explain violent ethnic conflict. What are the shared claims across these two sets of literature, what are the differences, and can we develop a unified approach to understanding ethnicity in politics?
2. Is social movement mobilization engineered from the top by entrepreneurs or built through protest from the ground up? Does this vary systematically by movement and if so, how?