

**Political Science 611: Comparative Political Economy**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Midterm Exam**

**I. Short Essays: Answer any three (3) questions. Read the instructions before answering and just answer what the question asks. Define your terms where necessary. Please be brief – approximately 2 paragraphs. (25 points each)**

1. Briefly summarize the history and present of global economic growth in two paragraphs.
2. How did states emerge in Europe and why are they weak in Africa?
3. How does geography matter in Jared Diamond's explanation of patterns of development?
4. How and why does backwardness affect the role of the state in development?
5. What are the mechanisms through which natural resources are said to hinder democracy?

**II. Long Essay. You must answer this question. Make sure to define your terms. Your answer should be 2-3 pages. (50 points)**

How would you explain the great divergence between rich and poor countries? Of the theories we have discussed, which is the most important factor and why? Your answer should have four parts: (i) how does this factor produce the great divergence, (ii) why do you think it is the most important factor, (iii) how you would defend the theory against criticisms, and (iv) what does this theory tell us to do in order to help poor countries grow – ie, what are the policy implications.