GOV 365N: Comparative Political Institutions, Fall 2010

Unique Number: 38643
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Office Hours: M 1-2:30, W 12-1:30
Class Time/Place: MWF 11-12, Mezes 1.306

Description:

Political institutions are the rules that govern politics. Constitutions, electoral systems, federalism, legislative rules, and laws governing civil-military relations are just some of the examples of political institutions that permeate political systems and thus affect our lives every day. Not surprisingly, the "rules of the game" have important consequences on how politics work and what type of outcomes are produced. Moreover, the impact of rules is surprisingly broad. Scholars have argued that political institutions affect everything from the number of political parties and the proportion of women or minorities in the legislature to the degree of ethnic conflict and the level of corruption.

This course will introduce students to the role of political institutions in comparative politics. The course introduces students to general concepts and theories regarding how institutions affect politics through an examination of specific institutions, most notably rules revolving around elections, presidential versus parliamentary systems, and federalism. In the process, we will examine specific effects commonly attributed to political institutions, especially the type of party system, the election of women and ethnic minorities, ethnic relations and conflict, and the stability of democracy itself.

Prerequisite: upper-division standing and six hours of lower-division coursework in Government.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The written requirements of the course will consist of two midterm take-home essays and two midterm exams. There will be no final exam. Please note the due date of all papers and tests. Make-up exams will be granted only for medical emergencies with a doctor's note. Late assignments will be severely penalized. Those unable to meet the requirements of the class on the dates set should not take the course. Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously and will be dealt with according to University rules. All written work is to be done individually. Grades will be assigned as follows:

Midterm Exam I	20%
Midterm Exam II	20%
Take-home Essay I	25%
Take-home Essay II	25%
Participation (based on in-class quizzes)	10%

REQUIRED READING:

P. Norris, *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

A course packet containing the readings marked by an asterisk (*) will be available at Paradigm Copies.

Grading Policy Percentage

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

Academic Integrity

Each student is expected to uphold the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code:

> The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

By UT at Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Lecture Schedule and Readings

Students should complete the readings in preparation for the lectures on that issue. The reading load averages 75-100 pages per week. Students should also keep track of current events by following a major national newspaper such as the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*. Current news items related to issues in class will be posted on Blackboard and should be treated as required course readings. Please arrive to class on time.

Week 1 (Aug. 25-27): What are institutions? What are their effects?

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 1.
*A. Reynolds. 2005. "Constitutional Medicine," *Journal of Democracy (JOD)* 16 (1): 54-68.
*P. Hall and R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," *Political Studies* 44 (5): 936-957.

Week 2 (Aug. 30-Sept. 3): Institutions and Models of Democracy

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Chs. 3.
* A. Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, Ch. 16.
* D. Horowitz. 2003. "Electoral Systems: a Primer for Decision Makers." *JOD* 14 (4): 115-127.

Electoral Rules and their Effects:

Week 3 (Sept. 6-10): Types of Electoral Systems and their Expected Effects

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 2.
* A. Lijphart. 1991. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies." *JOD* 2 (1): 72-84.
* Q. Quade. 1991. "PR and Democratic Statecraft." *JOD* 2 (3): 36-41.
* Moser and Scheiner, *Rethinking Electoral System Effects*, Ch. 1.

Week 4 (Sept. 13-17): Duverger's Law and Strategic Voting: Translating Votes into Seats

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Chs. 4-5.
* G. Cox, *Making Votes Count*, Chs. 2 and 4.
*W. Clark and M. Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws,"*Comparative Political Studies* 39 (6): 679–708.

Week 5 (Sept. 20-24): The Limits of Duverger's Law: New vs. Established Democracies

*Moser and Scheiner, *Rethinking Electoral System Effects*, Chs. 3, 5, and 6.

Recommended articles in Russian for CREEES students (see instructor for details):
*Гельман В.Я. 1996. "Избирательные кампании в России: испытание электоральной формулы," РОССИЯ СЕГОДНЯ, No. 2.
*Гельман В.Я. 1997. "Создавая правила игры: российское избирательное законодательство переходного периода," УНИВЕРСИТЕТСКОЕ СООБЩЕСТВО, No. 4.

Week 6 (Sept. 27-Oct. 1): Electoral Systems and Women's Representation

*** Takehome Essay #1 Due in class on Monday, Oct. 1st ***

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 8.
* Moser and Scheiner, *Rethinking Electoral System Effects*, Ch. 7.
* J. Mansbridge, et al. 2005. "Gender Quotas I," *Politics & Gender* 1(4): 621-652.

Week 7 (Oct. 4-8): Electoral Systems and Ethnic Minority Representation

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Ch. 9.
* R. Moser. 2008. "Electoral Systems and the Representation of Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from Russia," *Comparative Politics* 40: 273-292.
* D. Lublin et al. 2009. **"**Has the Voting Rights Act Outlived Its Usefulness? In a Word, "No**","** *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 34 (4): 525-553.
* A. Lijphart. 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *JOD* 15: 96-109.
* B. Reilly. 2002. "Electoral Systems for Divided Societies," *JOD* 13 (2): 156-170.

Week 8 (Oct. 11-15): Electoral Rules, Turnout, and Patterns of Democracy

Norris, *Electoral Engineering*, Chs. 6, 7, 10.
* J. Carey and M. Shugart. 1995. "Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas." *Electoral Studies* 14:417-439.

Week 9 (Oct. 18-22): Review and Exam

*** First Mid-term Exam taken in class, Friday, Oct. 22nd ***

Constitutional Rules: Presidential and Parliamentary Systems

Week 10 (Oct. 25-29): The Presidential vs. Parliamentary Government debate

* M. Shugart and J. Carey, *Presidents and Assemblies*, Chs. 2 and 3.
* J. Linz, "Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does It Make a Difference?" in J. Linz and A. Valenzuela (eds.), *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: Comparative Perspectives* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1994), pp. 3-75.

Week 11 (Nov. 1-5): Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Party Systems

* D. Samuels and M. Shugart, *Presidents, Parties, Prime Ministers*, Ch. 2.
* M. Shugart and J. Carey, *Presidents and Assemblies*, Chs. 10 and 11.
* G. Cox. 1999. "Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 145-167.
* M. S. Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*, Ch. 7.

Week 12 (Nov. 8-12): Critics and Defenders of Presidentialism

* S. Mainwaring and M. Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29: 449-472.
* J. Cheibub and F. Limongi. 2002. "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 151–79.

Constitutional Rules: Federalism

Week 13 (Nov. 15-19): Federalism and its Effects

*** Takehome Essay #1 Due in class on Friday, Nov. 19th ***

* A. Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, Chapter 10.
* A. Stepan. 1999. "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model," *JOD* 10 (4): 19-34.
* P. Ordeshook and O. Shvetsova. 1997. "Federalism and Constitutional Design," *JOD* 8 (1): 27-42.
* P. Chhibber and K. Kollman, *The Formation of National Party Systems: Federalism and Party Competition in Canada, Great Britain, India, and the United States*, Chs. 3 and 4.

Week 14 (Nov. 22-26): Federalism, Secession, and Ethnic Conflict

* N. Bermeo. 2002. "The Import of Institutions," *JOD* 13 (2): 96-110.
* D. Brancati. 2009. *Peace by Design*, Chs. 1 and 2.
* D. Brancati. 2004. "Can Federalism Stabilize Iraq?" *The Washington Quarterly* 27(2): 7-21.

Week 15 (Nov. 29-Dec. 3): Conclusions – Can We Engineer Democracy?

*** Second Mid-Term Exam taken in class on Friday, Dec. 3rd ***

Norris, *Engineering Elections*, Ch. 11.