

## POS 6933: Comparative Political Institutions

### Course Day & Times:

- Seminar: Thursdays 3pm – 6pm, AND 19
- Office Hours: TBD, Anderson Hall Rm. 211 or Turlington 3324

### Course objectives, description and goals:

The primary goal of this course is to facilitate a better understanding the origin, influence and interconnectedness of political institutions in modern political systems and especially within the context of policymaking. This will improve our understanding the functioning of diverse political systems and the potential costs and benefits and often-unanticipated consequences of institutional change. The course begins by examining a set of diverse analytical frameworks that can help to interpret the origins and influence of institutions. This is followed by a careful review of most major formal political institutions (although a few are not covered due to time constraints) as well as some informal institutions. The readings include both theoretical analyses and applied case studies. The goal is for the information covered in the course to be understood as generally applicable regardless of country or context. As a result, there is no specific geographic focus to the course; readings and cases are drawn from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

### Prerequisites

Core graduate seminar in comparative politics is not required, but will make life easier for you.

### Attendance

This is a graduate seminar that meets only once per week. The expectation is that you will be present (and actively participating) at all class meetings. Any and all absences (particularly those known in advance) should be discussed with me as soon as possible.

Please remember that according to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

***For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalogue***

***(<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>).***

### Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with departmental and University policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the department and university policies are. If you have doubts, we please discuss with the professor immediately (after the infringement is too late). Please refer also to the materials you were provided during your orientation.

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office so that special arrangements can be made to accommodate you. It is your responsibility to do so at the beginning of the semester and to communicate directly with the professor during the first week of classes (or as soon as the disability occurs).

### Grading & Assessment

Students are responsible for completing all readings for the topic in question prior to attending the class.

- Response papers (3 x 10% each = 30%) - one from each module
- Discussion leadership (2 x 10% each = 20%)
- Final Paper (50%) – *please note that 5% and 10% will be deducted from final grade on paper for failure to submit topics and outlines (respectively) on time.*

### **Grading Scale**

94% - 100% = A 90% - 93% = A- 87% - 89% = B+ 84% - 86% = B 80% - 83% = B-  
77% - 79% = C+ 74% - 76% = C 70% - 73% = C- 67% - 69% = D+ 64% - 66% = D  
60% - 63% = D- < 60% = F

***\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. AS MUCH ADVANCE WARNING AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS. CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE SCHEDULE, ASSIGNED READING OR OTHER ASPECTS AS DEEMED NECESSARY. NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO GRADING SCALE OR CORE UF POLICIES AS NOTED ABOVE. \*\*\****

### REQUIRED BOOK & MATERIALS

- Rhodes, R, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman, The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions, (OHPI) Oxford University Press, 2006 (paperback or hardback is fine)
- Various articles and book chapters assigned below in detailed syllabus. These will be available online.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS**

### **WEEK 1 (Jan. 6): Introduction to Comparative Political Institutions and Approaches to Institutional Analysis I**

- What is a political institution?
- How and why do we study political institutions?

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 1 “Elaborating the ‘New Institutionalism’” OHPI
2. Hall, Peter and Rosemary C. R. Taylor “Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms,” *Political Studies*, Vol, XLIV, pp: 936-957
3. Offe, Claus “Political Institutions and Social Power – Conceptual Explorations” Chapter 1 in Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek and Daniel Galvin (Eds) New York University Press, 2006
4. Weaver, Kent and Bert Rockman, “Assessing the Effects of Institutions,” pp. 1-41 in Do Institutions Matter, Kent Weaver and Bert Rockman (Eds.), Brookings Institution, Washington DC, 1993

### **WEEK 2 (Jan. 13): (New) Approaches to Institutional Analysis and Change I (continued)**

- New Institutional approaches
- Rational Choice Institutionalism
- Historical Institutionalism

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 2 “Rational Choice Institutionalism” OHPI
2. Chapter 3 “Historical Institutionalism” OHPI
3. Shepsle, Kenneth and Barry Weingast, “Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions,” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 1994.
4. Thelen, Kathleen, “How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative Historical Analysis” Chapter 6 in Comparative Historical Analysis, James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (Eds), Cambridge University Press, 2003
5. Moe, Terry, “Power and Political Institutions” Chapter 2 in Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek and Daniel Galvin (Eds) New York University Press, 2006

### **WEEK 3 (Jan. 20): (Newer) Approaches to Institutional Analysis and Change II**

- New paradigms – Constructivist, Network, and other approaches to political institutions

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 4 “Constructivist Institutionalism” OHPI
2. Chapter 5 “Network Institutionalism” OHPI
3. Schmidt, Vivien, “Discursive Institutionalism: The explanatory power of ideas and discourse,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 11, pp. 303-326, 2008.
4. Bell, Stephen, “Do we Really Need a New ‘Constructivist Institutionalism’ to Explain Institutional Change?” *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No. 4, 2011

5. Helmke, G. and Levitsky, S. "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda" *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 4: 725-740, 2004
6. Waylen, Georgina, "Informal Institutions, Institutional Change, and Gender Equality" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 67 (1) 212-223, 2013.

#### **WEEK 4 (Jan. 27): The State and State Building**

- The origin and impact of the state
- Defining the state
- The legitimacy of the state

##### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 7 "The State and State Building" OHPI
2. Clements, Kevin, Volker Boege, Anne Brown, Wendy Foley and Anna Nolan, "State Building Reconsidered: The Role of Hybridity in the Formation of Political Order," *Political Science*, Vol. 59, No. 1, 2007
3. Fortin-Rittberger, Jessica, "Exploring the Relationship between Infrastructural and Coercive State Capacity," *Democratization*, Vol. 21, No. 7, 2014
4. Thies, Cameron, "Public Violence and State Building in Central America," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 39, No.10, 2006
5. Yun-han, Chu and Jih-wen Lin, "Political Development in 20th-Century Taiwan: State-Building, Regime Transformation and the Construction of National Identity," *The China Quarterly*, No. 165, March 2001.
6. Fortin, Jessica, "A Tool to Evaluate State Capacity in Post-Communist Countries, 1989-2006," *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 49:654-686, 2010

#### **WEEK 5 (Feb. 3): Constitutions**

- Types of Constitutions
- The impact of constitutions (constitutional rigidity)
- Constitutional change (processes and impact)
- **PAPER TOPICS DUE**

##### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 11 "Analyzing Constitutions" OHPI
2. Chapter 12 "Comparative Constitutions" OHPI
3. Alberts, Susan, "How Constitutions Constrain," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 41, No. 2, 2009
4. Lijphart, Arend, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15, No.2, 2004
5. Cheibub, Jose Antonio, Shane Martin and Bjorn Erik Rasch, "Government Selection and Executive Powers: Constitutional Design in Parliamentary Democracies," *West European Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 5, 2015
6. Kuperman, Alan, J., "Constitutional Design and Conflict Management in Africa," *Peace Economics and Peace Science*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 2013
7. Colino, Cesare, "Constitutional Change Without Constitutional Reform: Spanish Federalism and the Revision of Catalonia's Statute of Autonomy" *Publius*, Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 262-288, 2009

8. Farrell, H. and Heritier, A, "Formal and Informal Institutions under Codecision: Continuous Constitution-Building in Europe" *Governance*, Vol. 16, No. 4: 577-600, 2003.
9. Fabbrini, F. "Kelsen in Paris: France's Constitutional Reform and the Introduction of *A Posteriori* Constitutional Review of Legislation" *German Law Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 10: pp. 1297-1312 2008.

### **WEEK 6 (Feb. 10): Federalism and Territorial Institutions**

- What is federalism
- Types of federal political systems
- Territorial Political institutions
- Impact of federal institutions

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 14 "Comparative Federalism" OHPI
2. Chapter 25 "Comparative Local Governance" OHPI
3. Kymlicka, Will, "Federalism, Nationalism and Multiculturalism," Chapter 24 on in Dimitrios Karmis and Wayne Norman (Eds.) *Theories of Federalism: A Reader*, Palgrave Macmillan Press, New York, NY, 2005
4. Braun, Dietmar, "Making Federalism More Efficient: A Comparative Assessment," *Acta Politica*, Vol. 43, No. 1, 2008
5. Suberu, Rotimi, "Federalism in Africa: The Nigerian Experience in Comparative Perspective," *Ethnopolitics*, Vol.8, No. 1, 2009
6. De Winter, L. M. Swyngedouw and P. Dumont, "Party system(s) and electoral behaviour in Belgium: From stability to balkanization" *West European Politics*, Vol. 29, No. 5: 933-956, 2006.
7. Linder, W. and A. Vatter, "Institutions and outcomes of Swiss federalism: The role of the cantons in Swiss politics" *West European Politics*, Vol.24, No. 2: 95-122, 2001.
8. Vickers, J. "A Two-Way Street: Federalism and Women's Politics in Canada and the United States" *Publius*, Vol. 40, No. 3: 412-435, 2010.

### **WEEK 7 (Feb. 17): Citizens, Civil Society and Other Social Actors**

- Citizens and citizenship
- The role of civil society
- Other Social actors

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 8 "Development of Civil Society" OHPI
2. Anderson, J. and Aida Paskeviciute, "How Ethnic and Linguistic Heterogeneity Influence the Prospects for Civil Society: A Comparative Study of Citizenship Behavior," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 68, No. 4, 2006.
3. Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way, "Why Democracy Needs a Level Playing Field." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2010
4. Kasfir, Nelson, "Civil Society, the State and Democracy in Africa," *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 2, 1998

5. Kamrava, Mehran and Frank O. Mora, "Civil Society and Democratization in Comparative Perspective: Latin America and the Middle East," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No.5, 1998
6. Arthur, Peter, "Democratic Consolidation in Ghana: the role and contribution of the media, civil society and state institutions," *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, Vol. 48, No. 2, 2010
7. Bernhard, Michael, "Civil society after the first transition: Dilemmas of post-communist democratization in Poland and beyond" *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, 1996

### **WEEK 8 (Feb. 24) Elections and Electoral systems**

- Types of electoral systems
- The impact of electoral systems
- Changing electoral systems

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 29 "Electoral Systems" OHPI
2. Riker, William, "Duverger's Law Revisited," Chapter 1 in Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences, Bernard Grofman and Arend Lijphart (Eds.) Agathon Press: NY, 2003
3. Benoit, K., "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 10, 2007
4. Endersby, James and Jonathan Kriekhaus, "Turnout around the globe- The influence of electoral institutions on national voter participation, 1972–2000," *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 27, Issue 4, 2008
5. Carey, J. "Competing Principals, Political Institutions, and Party Unity in Legislative Voting" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 51, No. 1: 92-107, 2007.
6. Mitchel, Paul, "Voters and their Representatives: Electoral Institutions and Delegation in Parliamentary Systems," *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 37, 2000
7. Neto, Octavio Amorim and Gary Cox, "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures and the Number of Parties," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No.1, 1997
8. Vatter, Adrian, "Legislative Party Fragmentation in Swiss Cantons: A function of Cleavage Structures or Electoral Institutions?" *Party Politics*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 2003

### **WEEK 9 (Mar. 3): SPRING BREAK**

### **WEEK 10 (Mar. 10): Political Parties and Party Systems**

- Types of political parties
- Roles of political parties
- Structure of political parties and party organizations

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 28 "Political Parties in and out of Legislatures" OHPI
2. Poguntke, Thomas, "Party Organizational Linkage: Parties without Firm Social Roots," Chapter 3 in Kurt Richard Luther and Ferdinand Muller-Rommel (Eds.) Political Parties in the New Europe, Oxford University Press: UK, 2002

3. Daalder, Hans, "Parties: Denied, Dismissed, or Redundant? A Critique," Chapter 2 in Richard Gunther, Jose Ramon Montero and Juan Linz (Eds.) Political Parties: Old Concepts and New Challenges, Oxford University Press, UK, 2002
4. Dalton, Russel, "The Quantity and the Quality of Party Systems: Party System Polarization, Its Measurement and Its Consequences," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 7, 2008
5. Mendilow, Johnathan, "Public Party Funding and Party Transformations in Multiparty Systems," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 1 1992
6. Karvonen, L. and C. Anckar, "Party Systems and Democratization: A Comparative Study of the Third World," *Democratization*, Vol.9, No. 3, 2002
7. Kim, HeeMin, Binham Powell Jr., and Richard Fording, "Electoral Systems, Party Systems, and Ideological Representation: An Analysis of Distortion in Western Democracies," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 42, No. 2, 2010
8. Weghorst, Keith and Michael Bernhard, "From Formlessness to Structure The Institutionalization of Competitive Party Systems in Africa," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 47, No. 12, 2014

### **WEEK 11 (Mar. 17): Legislatures**

- Internal organization of legislatures
- Roles of legislatures
- Structural characteristics of legislatures

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 22 "Legislative Organization" OHPI
2. Chapter 23 "Comparative Legislative Behavior" OHPI
3. Chapter 24 "Bicameralism" OHPI
4. Loewenberg, Gerhard, "Paradoxes of Legislatures," *Daedalus*, Vol. 136, No. 3, 2007
5. Polsby, Nelson, "Legislatures," Chapter 7 in Philip Norton Legislatures, Oxford University Press: UK, 1990
6. Mezey, Michael, "Classifying Legislatures," Chapter 8 in Philip Norton Legislatures, Oxford University Press: UK, 1990
7. Cox, Gary, "On the effects of Legislative Rules," pp. 247-268 in Gerhard Loewenberg, Pervill Squire and Roderick Kiewet (eds.) Legislatures: Comparative Perspectives on Representative Assemblies, Michigan University Press: MI, 2002
8. Nijzink, L, S. Mozaffar and E. Azevedo, "Parliaments and the Enhancement of Democracy on the African Continent: An Analysis of Institutional Capacity and Public Perceptions," *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 3-4, 2006
9. Crowther, William and Steven D. Roper, "A Comparative Analysis of Institutional Development in the Romanian and Moldovan Legislatures," *Journal of Legislative Studies*, Vol. 2, No.1, 1996
10. Rubinoff, Arthur, "The Decline of India's Parliament," Chapter 1 in Philip Norton and Nizam Ahmed (Eds.) Parliaments in Asia, Frank Cass: Portland OR, 1999

**WEEK 12 (Mar. 24): Executives**

- Presidents vs. Prime Ministers
- The “core” Executive
- Types of executives
- **DETAILED PAPER OUTLINES DUE**

*Readings:*

1. Chapter 17 “Executives in Parliamentary Government” OHPI
2. Chapter 18 “Executives – The American Presidency” OHPI
3. Elgie, Robert, “Models of Executive Politics-A Framework for the Study of Executive Power Relations,” *Political Studies*, Vol. 45:217-231, 1997
4. Siaroff, Alan, “Comparative Presidencies-The inadequacy of the presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentary distinction,” *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 42: 287-312, 2003
5. Bayliss, Thomas, “Presidents versus Prime Ministers: Shaping Executive Authority in Eastern Europe,” *World Politics*, Vol. 48. No. 3, 1996
6. Schleiter, Petra and Edward Morgan-Jones, “Party Government in Europe-Parliamentary and semi-presidential democracies compared,” *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 48: 665-693, 2009
7. Duran-Martinez, Angelica, “Presidents, Parties and Referenda in Latin America,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 9, 2012

**WEEK 13 (Mar. 31): Executive-Legislative Relations**

- The character of legislative-executive relations (independence vs. M.A.D.)
- Coalitions, divided government and the impact of legislative-executive relations on the political system

*Readings:*

1. Chapter 18 “Comparative Executive-Legislative Relations” OHPI
2. King, Anthony, “Modes of Executive-Legislative Relations: Great Britain, France and West Germany,” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol.1 No. 1, 1976
3. Gandhi, Jennifer and Adam Przeworski, “Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 40, No.11, 2007
4. Strøm, Kaare, “Parliamentary Government and Legislative Organization,” Chap. 2 in Parliaments and Majority Rule in Western Europe, Herbert Döring (Ed.), Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), Germany, 1995
5. Huneeus, C., F. Berrios and R. Cordero, “Legislatures in Presidential Systems: The Latin American Experience,” *Journal of Legislative Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 3-4, 2006
6. Casar, Ma. Amparo, “Executive Legislative Relations: The Case of Mexico (1946-1997)” Chapter 5 in Legislative Politics in Latin America, Scott Morgenstern and Benito Nacif (Eds), Cambridge University Press, 2002.
7. Mustapic, Ana Maria, “Oscillating Relations: President and Congress in Argentina,” Chapter 2 in Legislative Politics in Latin America, Scott Morgenstern and Benito Nacif (Eds), Cambridge University Press, 2002.
8. Momba, Jotham, “Evolution of Parliament-Executive Relations in Zambia,” Chapter 6 in Mohamed Salih (Ed.) African Parliaments, Palgrave-MacMillan Press: NY, 2005



9. Dulani, Boniface and Jan Kees van Donge, "A Decade of Legislative-Executive Squabble in Malawi, 1994-2004," Chapter 11 in Mohamed Salih (Ed.) African Parliaments, Palgrave-MacMillan Press: NY, 2005

### **WEEK 14 (April 7): Judiciary**

- Types of legal systems
- The role of the Judiciary
- Constitutional courts

#### *Readings:*

1. Chapter 26 "Judicial Institutions" OHPI
2. Chapter 27 "The Judicial Process and Public Policy" OHPI
3. Horowitz, Donald, "Constitutional Courts a Primer for Decision Makers," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 17, No. 4, 2006
4. Sweet-Stone, Alec, "Constitutional Courts and Parliamentary Democracy," *West European Politics*, Vol25, No. 1, 2002
5. von Doepp, P. "Politics and Judicial Assertiveness in Emerging Democracies: High Court Behavior in Malawi and Zambia," *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 59, No. 3, 2006
6. Volcansek, Mary, "Constitutional Courts as Veto Players: Divorce and Decrees in Italy," *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 39:347-372, 2001
7. Schwartz, Herman, "Eastern Europe's Constitutional Courts" *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 1998

### **WEEK 15 (April 14): Conclusions**

- Wrap up discussions (any catch-up)
- **FINAL PAPER DUE**