

Topics in Comparative Politics: Comparative Political Institutions
Political Science 320

Instructor: Juan Pablo Micozzi

Spring 2011

Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 2046

T-R 11:30-12:15

Office Hours: R 3:30-5:30 or by appointment

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Goals of the Course

The course attempts to make students familiar with the concept of institutions, and explore a variety of institutional designs and its effects. Departing from the assumption that institutions matter, we will discuss how dissimilar institutional arrangements create incentives for specific patterns of behavior; and what the empirical implications of these differences are. We will analyze contemporary literature on systems of government, electoral systems, political parties, gender and ethnic representation, and empirical approaches to democracy, among others. After completing the course, students should be able to analyze political events worldwide in light of the incentives and restrictions offered by their institutional environment.

Requirements

Class attendance is mandatory and active participation is required. The final grade will reflect the performance in the following instances:

Class participation: 20%

Students are required to actively engage in discussions, which imply, of course, a careful reading of the weekly materials. Additionally, students might be asked to co-teach some of the weekly readings.

Democracy analysis: 20%

A particular country will be assigned to each student in order to be analyzed using the conventional empirical measures of democracy.

Votes/Seats Allocation Exercise: 20%

Students will get several electoral scenarios and will have to allocate seats using different institutional combinations. The assignment might be in-class or take home.

Final Paper: 40%

An original research piece will be required. In order to polish ideas, it is strongly recommended that students think a topic quite early in the semester and consult the instructor's opinion. A paper prospectus (1-2 pages) must be handed in no later than **March 9th**. This prospectus is a part of the final paper. Thus, it must be completed in order to pass the course.

Additionally, all requirements need to be fulfilled. Failure to comply with any of the requirements will result in a failing grade for the class. No late deliveries will be tolerated, and failure to comply with the prescribed deadlines will imply a failure (0%) in the respective instance.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

"Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request." If you need more information on ADA, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 277-5251.

Required Books

Gallagher, Michael and Paul Mitchell. 2005. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford University Press.

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press.

Online Materials

Every book chapter not included in the required books will be available at eReserves. Look for the course's site, use the password cpi320 and download the files. All those required papers published in academic journals are available through UNM Library's website. Just click on the link to eJournal finder, type the name of the journal and find the right year/volume.

Schedule:

Week 1 (1/20): Syllabus and Presentation

Week 2 (1/25-27): Introduction to Political Institutions

March, James, and Johann Olsen. 2006. "Elaborating the New Institutionalism." In R. Rhodes, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, pp. 3-22.

Rhodes, R. 2006. "Old Institutionalism." In R. Rhodes, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, pp. 90-108.

Shepsle, Kenneth. 2006. "Rational Choice Institutionalism." In R. Rhodes, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, pp. 23-38.

Sanders, Elizabeth. 2006. "Historical Institutionalism." In R. Rhodes, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, pp. 39-55.

Week 3 (2/1-3): Institutions - Majoritarian vs. Consensual Democracy

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Yale University Press.

Week 4 (2/8-10): Democracy and Empirical Research

Diamond, Larry. 2003. "Defining and Developing Democracy." In Robert Dahl, Ian Shapiro and Jose Cheibub, *The Democracy Sourcebook*. MIT Press: 29-39. (Available in NetLibrary)

Munck, Gerardo L., and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices." *Comparative Political Studies* 35 (1): 5-34.

Week 5 (2/15-17): Electoral Laws I: The Basics

Assignment 1 due 2/17!

Bring a calculator to this and the next class

Blais, Andre and Louis Massicotte. 2002. "Electoral Systems." In Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi and Pippa Norris, *Comparing Democracies 2*. Sage Publications, pp. 40-69.

Gallagher, Michael and Paul Mitchell. 2005. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford University Press. Selected Chapters.

Week 6 (2/24-26): Electoral Laws II: Strategic Coordination under Varying Rules

Benoit, Kenneth. 2006. "Duverger's Law and the Study of Electoral Systems." *French Politics* 1:69-83.

Cox, Gary. 1997. *Making Votes Count*. Cambridge University Press. Selected Chapters.

Chhibber, Pradeep, and Ken Kollman. 1998. "Party aggregation and the number of parties in India and the United States." *American Political Science Review* 92(2): 329-342.

Magar, Eric, Marc Rosenblum and David Samuels. 1998. "On the Absence of Centripetal Incentives in Double-Member Districts: The Case of Chile." *Comparative Political Studies* 31(6): 714-739.

Week 7 (3/1-3): Effects of Electoral Rules

Assignment 2 due 3/1!

Benoit, Kenneth. 2007. "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions", *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 363- 390.

Cain, Bruce, John Ferejohn and Morris P. Fiorina. 1979. *The Personal Vote: Constituency Service and Electoral Independence*. Harvard University Press: 1-21.

Ames, Barry. 1995. "Electoral strategy under open-list proportional representation." *American Journal of Political Science* 39(2): 406-433.

Crisp, Brian and Scott Desposato. 2004. "Constituency Building in Multimember Districts: Collusion or Conflict?" *Journal of Politics* 66(2): 136-156.

Week 8 (3/8-10): Political Parties

Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* University of Chicago Press, Ch. 1-2, pp 1-61.

Stokes, Susan. 1999. "Political Parties and Democracy." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 243-267.

Paper Proposals Due!!

Week 9 (3/16): Spring Break

Week 10 (3/22-24): Electoral Rules and Representation: Gender

Htun, Mala. 2004. "Is Gender Like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups," *Perspectives on Politics* 2: 439-58

Jones, Mark P. 2009. "Gender Quotas, Electoral Laws, and the Election of Women: Evidence from the Latin American Vanguard." *Comparative Political Studies* 42 (1): 56-81.

Week 11 (3/29): Electoral Rules and Representation: Redistricting and Minorities

Cameron, Charles, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?" *American Political Science Review* 90(4): 794-812.

Epstein, David, Michael Herron, Sharyn O'Halloran and David Park. 2007. "Estimating the Effect of Redistricting on Minority Substantive Representation." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 23(2): 499-518.

Banducci, S., T. Donovan, and J. Karp. 2004. "Minority Representation, Empowerment, and Participation." *Journal of Politics* 66(2): 534-56.

No class on 3/31 (Midwest Political Science Association Conference)

Week 12 (4/5-7): Systems of Government: Presidentialism-Parliamentarism

Mainwaring, Scott, and Matthew Shugart. 1997. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, Ch. 1, pp. 12-54.

Cox, Gary W. and Scott Morgenstern. 2002. "Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents." In Morgenstern, Scott, and Benito Nacif, *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 446-468.

Laver, Michael and Norman Schofield. 1990. *Multiparty Government: The Politics of Coalition in Europe*. Michigan University Press, Ch. 1 and 8

Week 13 (4/12-14): Systems of Government: Semi-Presidentialism

Roper, Steven. 2002. "Are All Semipresidential Regimes the Same? A Comparison of Premier-Presidential Regimes." *Comparative Politics* 34(3): 253-272.

Week 14 (4/19-21): Term Limits

Carey, John. 1996. "Term Limits and Legislative Representation." Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-17.

Taylor, Michelle M. 1992. "Formal versus Informal Incentive Structures and Legislative Behavior: Evidence from Costa Rica." *The Journal of Politics* 54 (4):1055-1073.

Langston, Joy and Javier Aparicio. 2008. "Political Career Structures in Democratic Mexico, 1997-2003." Presented at the 66th Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, Chicago, April 3-6, 2008.

Week 15 (4/26-28): Candidate Selection Mechanisms

Gerber, Elisabeth and Rebecca Morton. 1998., "Primary Election Systems and Representation." *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 14: 304-324.

Siavelis, Peter and Scott Morgenstern. 2008. *Pathways to power: political recruitment and candidate selection in Latin America*. Penn State University Press. Introduction and Conclusion.

De Luca, Miguel, Mark P. Jones, and Maria Ines Tula. 2002. Back Rooms or Ballot Boxes? Candidate Nomination in Argentina. *Comparative Political Studies* 35(4): 413-36.

Week 16 (5/3-5): Review

Final paper is due on May 13th, 11:59 Mountain time.