

COMPARATIVE INSTITUTIONS

Semester: Spring 2023
Course Number: PSCI 6337

Instructor: Dr. Sivaram Cheruvu	Time: Wed 4:00 - 6:45 PM
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Course Description: Political institutions is the study how the contextual features of a collective choice setting affect individual behavior within that setting. Within this course we will study a variety of collective choice settings including elections, legislatures, and judiciaries to examine how rules and procedures affect actors' behavior and incentives.

Objectives: Students will become knowledgeable in the major themes within the academic literature in comparative institutions. By engaging with contemporary events, students will be able to apply what they learn in class to the real-world outcomes. Other objectives include:

- To provide students with the conceptual and theoretical foundations for comparative political analysis
- To empower students to apply these contexts in both contemporary and historical settings
- To develop students analytical and research skills through critical reading and written application assignments

Office Hours: Monday 10-11 am or by appointment (Virtual or In Person in GR 3.802B)

Course Format: This course will be primarily discussion-based. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings in preparation for class.

Grading Policy:

1. **Participation (20%):** Students are expected to actively participate in class each week. Students should come into class able to summarize the relevant arguments in the readings for the week, while also providing substantive critiques towards the theoretical and empirical strategies of the authors.
2. **Discussion Posts (20%):** Students will write four discussion posts regarding their selected week's readings on elearning of 500 words during the semester. Students will sign up for their weeks at the beginning of the semester on a google form. These posts are not a summary of the readings, but rather a way to critically engage with the substance and theory of the papers.
3. **Research Design (40%):** Each student will write a 10 - 12 page research design on a topic of their choice. The research design will include a statement of a theoretical question and/or puzzle, a review of the relevant literature, a theoretical argument, empirically testable hypotheses, the empirical method, and a description of the data required. More details will be given during the semester
4. **Research Design Presentations (20%):** The last class of the semester, students will present their research designs.

Class Attendance:

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

Class Participation:

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Recordings:

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Support Resources:

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Course Schedule

Class 1 January 18: Introduction and how to read a research paper

Class 2 January 25: What are institutions?

Required Reading:

- Diermeier, D. and Krehbiel, K., 2003. Institutionalism as a Methodology. *Journal of theoretical politics*, 15(2), pp.123-144.
- Przeworski, A., 2004. Institutions matter? *Government and opposition*, 39(4), pp.527-540.

Recommended Reading:

- Margaret Levi and Victor Menaldo. 2015. "The New Economic Institutionalism in Historical Perspective." In J. Ghandi and R. Ruiz-Rufino. *Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions*. London: Routledge.
- Arthur Denzau and Douglass C. North. 1994. "Shared mental models: ideologies and institutions." *Kyklos* 47: 3-31.
- Granovetter, Mark S. 2005. "The Impact of Social Structure on Economic Outcomes." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 19: 33-50.
- Hodgson, Geoffrey M. 1998. "The Approach of Institutional Economics." *Journal of Economic Literature*. 36: 166-92.
- March, James G., and Johan P. Olsen. 1984. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life." *American Political Science Review*. 78: 734-749.
- Peter Hall and Rosemary C.R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44 (4): 936-57.
- Rothstein, Bo. 1996. "Political Institutions: An Overview." In Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ken Shepsle. 2006. "Rational Choice Institutionalism." In S. Binder, R. Rhodes, B. Rockman. *Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Thelen, Kathleen. 1999. "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2: 369-404.
- Weingast, Barry R. 1996. "Political Institutions: Rational Choice Perspectives." In Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Class 3 February 1: Electoral Institutions pt.1 - Representation**Required Reading:**

- Dancygier, R.M., 2014. Electoral rules or electoral leverage? Explaining Muslim representation in England. *World Politics*, 66(2), pp.229-263.
- Becher, M. and González, I.M., 2019. Electoral reform and trade-offs in representation. *American Political Science Review*, 113(3), pp.694-709.
- Horiuchi, Y., Smith, D.M. and Yamamoto, T., 2020. Identifying voter preferences for politicians' personal attributes: A conjoint experiment in Japan. *Political Science Research and Methods*, 8(1), pp.75-91.

Recommended Reading:

- Roger B Myerson. "Incentives to Cultivate Favored Minorities Under Alternative Electoral Systems". In: *American Political Science Review* 87.4 (1993), pp. 856–869
- Audrey Andre, Sam Depauw, and Matthew Soberg Shugart. "The Effect of Electoral Institutions on Legislative Behaviour". In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*. Ed. by Shane Martin, Thomas Saalfeld, and Kaare W. Strm. Oxford University Press, 2014

Class 4 February 8: Electoral Institutions pt.2 - Turnout**RESEARCH QUESTION DUE****Required Reading:**

- Eggers, A.C., 2015. Proportionality and turnout: Evidence from French municipalities. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(2), pp.135-167.
- Sanz, C., 2017. The effect of electoral systems on voter turnout: Evidence from a natural experiment. *Political Science Research and Methods*, 5(4), pp.689-710.
- Skorge, Ø.S., 2021. Mobilizing the Underrepresented: Electoral Systems and Gender Inequality in Political Participation. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Class 5 February 15: Electoral Institutions pt.3 - Redistribution**Required Reading:**

- Persson, T., Roland, G. and Tabellini, G., 2007. Electoral rules and government spending in parliamentary democracies. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2(2), pp.155-188.
- Jurado, I. and Leon, S., 2019. Geography matters: the conditional effect of electoral systems on social spending. *British Journal of Political Science*, 49(1), pp.81-103.
- Paulsen, T., 2022. Does proportional representation increase redistribution? Evidence from early 20th century Norwegian municipalities. *Electoral Studies*, 78, p.102494.

Class 6 February 22: Bureaucracy**Required Reading:**

- Goplerud, M. and Smith, D.M., 2021. Who Answers for the Government? Bureaucrats, Ministers, and Responsible Parties. *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Brierley, S., 2020. Unprincipled principals: Co-opted bureaucrats and corruption in Ghana. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2), pp.209-222.
- Martin, L. and Raffler, P.J., 2021. Fault lines: the effects of bureaucratic power on electoral accountability. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(1), pp.210-224.

Class 7 March 1: Bureaucracy pt.2**Required Reading:**

- Suryanarayan, P. and White, S., 2021. Slavery, reconstruction, and bureaucratic capacity in the American south. *American Political Science Review*, 115(2), pp.568-584.
- Dasgupta, A. and Kapur, D., 2020. The political economy of bureaucratic overload: Evidence from rural development officials in India. *American Political Science Review*, 114(4), pp.1316-1334.
- Jiang, J., 2018. Making bureaucracy work: Patronage networks, performance incentives, and economic development in China. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(4), pp.982-999.

Class 8 March 8: Federalism and decentralization**Required Reading:**

- Grossman, Guy and Janet Lewis. 2014. "Administrative Unit Proliferation." *American Political Science Review* 108 (1): 196-217
- Malesky, Edmund J., Cuong Viet Nguyen, and Anh Tran. 2014. "The Impact of Recentralization on Public Services: a Difference-in-differences Analysis of the Abolition of Elected Councils in Vietnam." *American Political Science Review* 108 (1): 144-168
- Brollo, Fernanda and Tommaso Nannicini. 2012. "Tying Your Enemy's Hands in Close Races: The Politics of Federal Transfers in Brazil." *American Political Science Review* 106 (4): 742-761.

Class 9 March 22: Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes**Literature Review, theory and hypotheses due****Required Reading:**

- Shen-Bayh, F., 2018. Strategies of repression: Judicial and extrajudicial methods of autocratic survival. *World Politics*, 70(3), pp.321-357.
- Gandhi, J. and Ong, E., 2019. Committed or conditional democrats? Opposition dynamics in electoral autocracies. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(4), pp.948-963.
- Wright, J., 2008. Do authoritarian institutions constrain? How legislatures affect economic growth and investment. *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(2), pp.322-343.

Class 10 March 29: Judicial Institutions pt.1 - Separation of Powers**Required reading:**

- Gauri, V., Staton, J.K. and Cullell, J.V., 2015. The Costa Rican supreme court's compliance monitoring system. *The Journal of Politics*, 77(3), pp.774-786.
- Xu, Jian. "The role of corporate political connections in commercial lawsuits: Evidence from Chinese courts." *Comparative Political Studies* 53, no. 14 (2020): 2321-2358.
- Cheruvu, S., 2022. Education, public support for institutions, and the separation of powers. *Political Science Research and Methods*, pp.1-18.

Class 11 April 5: Judicial Institutions pt.2 - Judicial retention and decision-making**Required Reading:**

- Stiansen, Ø., 2022. (Non) renewable Terms and Judicial Independence in the European Court of Human Rights. *The Journal of Politics*, 84(2), pp.992-1006
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, Tom S. Clark, and Jason P. Kelly. "Judicial selection and death penalty decisions." *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 1 (2014): 23-39.
- Driscoll, A. and Nelson, M.J., 2015. Judicial selection and the democratization of justice: Lessons from the Bolivian judicial elections. *Journal of Law and Courts*, 3(1), pp.115-148.

Class 12 April 12: Institutions and Conflict**Required Reading:**

- Blair, R.A., Karim, S.M. and Morse, B.S., 2019. Establishing the rule of law in weak and war-torn states: Evidence from a field experiment with the Liberian National Police. *American Political Science Review*, 113(3), pp.641-657.
- Albertus, M., 2020. Land reform and civil conflict: Theory and evidence from Peru. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2), pp.256-274.
- Kao, K. and Revkin, M.R., 2021. Retribution or Reconciliation? Post-Conflict Attitudes toward Enemy Collaborators. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Class 13 April 19: International Institutions pt. 1 - Public Support**Data and Empirical Method Due****Required Reading:**

- Anjum, G., Chilton, A. and Usman, Z., 2021. United Nations endorsement and support for human rights: An experiment on women's rights in Pakistan. *Journal of Peace Research*, 58(3), pp.462-478.
- Madsen, M.R., Mayoral, J.A., Strezhnev, A. and Voeten, E., 2022. Sovereignty, Substance, and Public Support for European Courts' Human Rights Rulings. *American Political Science Review*, 116(2), pp.419-438.
- Chapman, T.L. and Chaudoin, S., 2020. Public reactions to international legal institutions: The international criminal court in a developing democracy. *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4), pp.1305-1320.

Class 14 April 26: International institutions pt 2**Required Readings**

- Carnegie, A. and Marinov, N., 2017. Foreign aid, human rights, and democracy promotion: Evidence from a natural experiment. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(3), pp.671-683.
- Blair, R.A., Di Salvatore, J. and Smidt, H.M., 2022. When do UN peacekeeping operations implement their mandates?. *American Journal of Political Science*, 66(3), pp.664-680.
- Kennard, A., 2022. Who Controls the Past: Far-Sighted Bargaining in International Regimes. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Class 15 May 3: Research design presentations