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## Comparative Government: Political Institutions

Spring Term 2018

**Time and place:** Tuesdays, 10.15am-11.45am, building: A5, room: B244

**First session:** 13th February 2018

**Office hours:** Tuesday, 3pm-4pm, building: B6 30-32, room 336. Please drop me a line in advance to avoid waiting.

This version: April 24, 2018

### 1 Teaching goals

The goal of this class is to make you familiar with concepts, theories, and analytical tools of Comparative Government and political institutions in particular. We will discuss what institutions are, how they shape behavior, and how social scientists can evaluate their origins and consequences. We will also study theoretical frameworks often applied in Comparative Government. Finally, we will discuss central topics of research in Comparative Government.

This class will enable you to

- understand the theoretical reasoning underlying institutional arrangements,
- analyze the institutional mechanisms that shape political behavior,
- understand empirical research that studies the origins and consequences of political institutions,
- categorize literature in different ways.

### 2 Lecture style

This course is not a classical lecture. I will *not* give 90min presentations that are both self-explanatory from reading the slides and that summarize all the information you need to pass the course. Rather, I will give a short introduction to a topic, its theories and methods in a given week. Before the next session, you will closely read assigned readings. In the next session, we will then discuss key aspects of the corresponding readings in a setting that will feel more like a seminar than a lecture. Overall, this means that a session will usually cover the fundamentals of one topic and a close discussion of the readings that are based on what was last week's lecture content.

### 3 Examination

Your course mark will be determined by your mark for an essay that you will write after this course. I will pose the essay question during our last session on 29th May.

The essay will not exceed a strict 2500 words limits (excluding bibliography but including short references and footnotes in the essay). All references must be made according to academic standards. **Essays are due on 19th June 2018 at 4pm Mannheim time.** I will inform you about how to submit the essay in May.

To pass the essay (or even better: to perform well), you will need a deep understanding of both the concepts taught in this class as well as *all* of the assigned readings. Given the amount of reading you will have to do for this course and the short time period you have to write the essay, it will be virtually impossible to make up for not reading during term. Similarly, you will need to understand the concepts that I lecture about even though they are not part of the assigned readings, so attendance in class will prove indispensable too.

### 4 Administrative stuff

My office hours are Tuesday, 3pm-4pm, at B6 30-32, room 336. Please drop me a line in advance to avoid waiting.

You need to register for this class via the Studierendenportal at <https://portal2.uni-mannheim.de>.

All course materials can be accessed at <https://portal2.uni-mannheim.de>.

I will send out emails to your university e-mail accounts, so please check them regularly.

## 5 Reading List

Pieces marked with an \* are the ones we will discuss in class the next week.

### 1. What are institutions? Where do they come from? (13 Feb)

North, Douglas C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

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

Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C.R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44: 936-57.

Young, H. P. 1996. "The economics of convention." *Journal of economic perspectives* 10(2): 105-122.

Angrist, J. D., and Pischke, J. S. 2008. *Mostly harmless econometrics: An empiricist's companion*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 2.

\*Adam Przeworski, 2004. "Institutions Matter?" *Government and Opposition* 39: 527-540.

\*Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the rules of the game: the choice of electoral systems in advanced democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93(3): 609-624.

\* Rittberger, B. (2003). "The creation and empowerment of the European Parliament." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 41(2): 203-225.

### 2. Theoretical frameworks (20 Feb)

\*Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs. 1-3, 14, 17.

\*Powell, G. Bingham Jr. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 10.

Lupia, Arthur. 2006. "Delegation and Its Perils." In: *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies*, eds. Kaare Strøm, Wolfgang C. Müller and Torbjörn Bergman. Oxford: Oxford University Press. p. 33-54.

Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* 25: 289-325.

### 3. Democracy and autocracy (27 Feb)

Tilly, Charles. 2007. *Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 (Definitions of Democracy).

Coppedge, Michael, and John Gerring. 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 9: 247-67.

Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 2016. "Democratization During the Third Wave." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19: 125-44.

\*Boix, Carles, and Susan C. Stokes. 2003. "Endogenous Democratization." *World Politics* 55: 517-49.

#### 4. Autocratic institutions (6 Mar)

Bueno De Mesquita, B., Morrow, J. D., Siverson, R. M., and Smith, A. 2002. "Political institutions, policy choice and the survival of leaders." *British Journal of Political Science* 32(4), 559-590.

Boix, C. 2010. "Electoral markets, party strategies, and proportional representation." *American Political Science Review* 104(2): 404-413.

\*Gandhi, J., and Przeworski, A. 2007. "Authoritarian institutions and the survival of autocrats." *Comparative political studies* 40(11): 1279-1301.

\*Geddes, Barbara. 2004. "Authoritarian Breakdown: Empirical Test of a Game Theoretic Argument" unpublished manuscript.

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.659.7165&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

#### 5. Electoral systems I (13 Mar)

Blais, André. 1988. "The Classification of Electoral Systems." *European Journal of Political Research* 16: 99-110.

Shugart, Matthew Søberg. 2005. "Comparative Electoral Systems Research: The Maturation of a Field and New Challenges Ahead." In: *The Politics of Electoral Systems*, eds. Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell. Oxford: Oxford University Press. p. 25-56.

Benoit, Kenneth. 2007. "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 363-90.

Cox, Gary W. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 2.

\*Jones, Mark. 1994. "Presidential Election Laws and Multipartyism in Latin America." *Political Research Quarterly*. 47:41-57.

#### 6. Presidentialism and Duverger's Law (20 Mar)

Centellas, Miguel. 2008. "From "Parliamentarized" to "Pure" Presidentialism: Bolivia After October 2003." *The Latin Americanist*.

Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies*. 26(2): 198-228.

Shugart Søberg, Matthew & John Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters: 2, 3, 7 & 8.

\* Raile, Eric, Carlos Pereira, & Timothy Power. 2011. "The Executive Toolbox: Building Legislative Support in a Multiparty Presidential Regime." *Political Research Quarterly*. 64(2): 323-334.

\* Chieub, José Antonio. 2002. "Minority Governments, Deadlock Situations, and the Survival of Presidential Democracies." *Comparative Political Studies*. 35(3): 284-312.

## 7. Electoral systems II and legislative institutions (10 Apr)

Krook, Mona Lena, and Robert G Moser. 2013. "Electoral Rules and Political Inclusion." In: *Political Science, Electoral Rules, and Democratic Governance. Report of the Task Force on Electoral Rules and Democratic Governance*, eds. Mala Htun and G. Bingham Jr. Powell. Washington: American Political Science Association. p. 31-37.

Carey, John M., and Simon Hix. 2013. "Policy Consequences of Electoral Rules." In: *Political Science, Electoral Rules, and Democratic Governance. Report of the Task Force on Electoral Rules and Democratic Governance*, eds. Mala Htun and G. Bingham Jr. Powell. Washington: American Political Science Association. p. 46-55.

Cox, Gary W. 2006. "The Organization of Democratic Legislatures." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*, eds. Donald A. Wittman and Barry R. Weingast. Oxford: Oxford University Press. p. 141-61.

Martin, Shane. 2014. "Committees." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, eds. Shane Martin, Thomas Saalfeld and Kaare Strøm. Oxford: Oxford University Press. p. 352-68.

\*Gilligan, Thomas W, and Keith Krehbiel. 1990. "Organization of Informative Committees by a Rational Legislature." *American Journal of Political Science* 34: 531-64.

\*Powell, G. Bingham Jr. 2009. "The Ideological Congruence Controversy. The Impact of Alternative Measures, Data, and Time Periods on the Effects of Election Rules." *Comparative Political Studies* 42: 1475-97.

## 8. Legislative behavior (17 Apr)

\*Carey, John M. 2007. "Competing Principals, Political Institutions, and Party Unity in Legislative Voting". *American Journal of Political Science* 51: 92-107.

André, Audrey, Sam Depauw, and Matthew S. Shugart. 2014. "The Effect of Electoral Institutions on Legislative Behavior." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, eds. Shane Martin, Thomas Saalfeld and Kaare Strøm. Oxford: Oxford University Press. p. 231-49.

O'brien, D. Z., and Shomer, Y. 2013. "A Cross-National Analysis of Party Switching." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38(1): 111-141.

\*Russo, Federico, and Matti Wiberg. 2010. "Parliamentary Questioning in 17 European Parliaments: Some Steps Towards Comparison." *The Journal of Legislative Studies* 16: 215-32.

\*Proksch, S. O., and Slapin, J. B. 2012. Institutional foundations of legislative speech. *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 520-537.

## 9. **Spatial party competition (24 Apr)**

Gox, Gary. 1990. "Centripetal and Centrifugal Incentives in Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review* 34(4): 903-935.

Laver, Michael. 2005 "Policy and the Dynamics of Political Competition." *American Political Science Review* 99(2): 263-281.

\* Ezrow, Lawrence, Catherine De Vries, Marco Steenbergen, and Erica Edwards. 2011 "Mean voter representation and partisan constituency representation: Do parties respond to the mean voter position or to their supporters?." *Party Politics* 17(3): 275-301.

\*Lehrer, Roni. 2012 "Intra-Party Democracy and Party Responsiveness." *West European Politics* 35(6): 1295-1319.

## 10. **Government formation and termination (8 May)**

Müller, Wolfgang C. 2009. "Government Formation." *The SAGE Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Los Angeles: Sage: 227-45.

Laver, M. 2003 "Government termination." *Annual Review of Political Science* 6(1): 23-40.

\*Thies, Michael F. 2001. "Keeping Tabs on Partners: The Logic of Delegation in Coalition Governments." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 580-98.

\*Martin, Lanny W., and Georg Vanberg. 2004. "Policing the Bargain: Coalition Government and Parliamentary Scrutiny." *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 13-27.

## 11. **Federalism and bicameralism (15 May)**

Bednar, Jenna. 2011 "The Political Science of Federalism." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 7: 269-88.

\*Brancati, Dawn. 2006. "Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism?." *International Organization* 60: 651-85.

Heller, William B., and Diana M. Branduse. 2014 "The Politics of Bicameralism." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, eds. Shane Martin, Thomas Saalfeld and Kaare Strøm. p. 332-51.

\*Heller, William B. 2001. "Political Denials: The Policy Effect of Intercameral Partisan Differences in Bicameral Parliamentary Systems." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 17: 34-61.

12. **Courts (22 May)**

Helmke, Gretchen, and Frances Rosenbluth. 2009. "Regimes and the Rule of Law: Judicial Independence in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 345-66.

Helmke, Gretchen. 2002. "The Logic of Strategic Defection: Court-Executive Relations in Argentina under Dictatorship and Democracy." *American Political Science Review* 96: 291-303.

Vanberg, Georg. 2001. "Legislative-Judicial Relations: A Game-Theoretic Approach to Constitutional Review." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 346-61.

Hönnige, Christoph. 2009. "The Electoral Connection: How the Pivotal Judge Affects Oppositional Success at European Constitutional Courts." *West European Politics* 32: 963-84.

13. **Review session and essay question (29 May)**