

Comparative Government: Political Institutions

Lecture, M.A. Basic Module Comparative Politics
University of Mannheim, Spring and Summer Term 2017
Tuesdays 10:15-11:45; A 5, 6 Building B - Room B 243
Dr. Thomas Däubler

This version: February 13, 2017

1 Purpose

This lecture gives an overview of selected theoretical concepts and the main research findings in the field of Comparative Government, specifically focusing on the role of political institutions. The course introduces a number of core themes in the comparative study of political institutions, such as regime types, constitutional design and electoral systems. The lecture covers the impact of different institutional designs on patterns of executive governance, legislative behaviour and policy-making. Not the least because of the fundamental endogeneity problem in the study of institutional effects, we will also consider the causes underlying the choice of certain institutions.

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- contrast the functioning of different institutional designs;
- describe mechanisms through which institutions shape the behaviour of political actors;
- apply theories to predict the impact of institutions on political outcomes;
- assess empirical studies that examine the causes and consequences of political institutions.

2 Meetings

Classes will meet fourteen times, on Tuesdays from 10:15-11:45 in A5, 6, Building B, Room B 243.

While the course is formally organized as a lecture, you should not expect that you can enjoy 90 minutes of effortless entertainment. Classes will typically start with a lecture-style introduction to the topic, but the second part will require active participation in discussion and group work. It is therefore essential that you prepare well for each session. Please remember that the quality of the discussions (and thus your own benefit) crucially depends on what each and every one of you will contribute.

3 Texts

Below you can find a detailed list with obligatory readings. You can access most of the readings directly (from within the university network) by clicking on the authors' names. There are usually four items, often a mix of review articles and classic original papers. Material that is not available directly can be found on Ilias, or the respective books are on shelf reserve ("Semesterapparat") in the library.

While the amount of reading may at times appear challenging, please keep in mind that the purpose of this course is to convey a broader picture of institutions. This does not imply an invitation to superficial reading; it means that your focus should be on the key questions, concepts, arguments and findings from the readings for each week.

Should you feel a need to read up on the fundamentals related to a topic, I recommend consulting the respective chapters of the following two books:

- Clark, W. R., Golder, M., and S. N. Golder. 2013. Principles of comparative politics. 2nd edition. CQ Press.
- Lijphart, Arend. 2012. Patterns of democracy. Government forms and performance in thirty-six countries. 2nd edition. Yale University Press.

For additional readings on the different topics, the overview articles or the various Oxford Handbooks (especially those on Political Institutions, on Legislative Studies and on Political Economy) provide a good starting point.

4 Schedule and Readings

1. What are institutions and how to study them? (14 Feb)

North, Douglass C. 1990. Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. [on Ilias]

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.

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

2. **Theoretical approaches (21 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. [shelf reserve]

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 (28 Feb)**

Cheibub, José Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi, and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited." *Public Choice* 143: 67-101.

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. **Varieties of autocracy (7 Mar)**

Geddes, Barbara, Erica Frantz, and Joseph G. Wright. 2014. "Military Rule." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 147-62.

Gandhi, Jennifer, and Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. "Elections under Authoritarianism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403-22.

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. 2014. "Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set." *Perspectives on Politics* 12: 313-31.

Boix, Carles, and Milan W Svobik. 2013. "The Foundations of Limited Authoritarian Government: Institutions, Commitment, and Power-Sharing in Dictatorships." *The Journal of Politics* 75: 300-16.

5. **Presidentialism and parliamentarism (14 Mar)**

Elgie, Robert. 2005. "From Linz to Tsebelis: Three Waves of Presidential/Parliamentary Studies?". *Democratization* 12: 106-22.

Elgie, Robert. 2016. "Three Waves of Semi-Presidential Studies." *Democratization* 23: 49-70. [this week p. 49-58]

Frye, Timothy. 1997. "A Politics of Institutional Choice: Post-Communist Presidencies." *Comparative Political Studies* 30: 523-52.

Shugart, Matthew S, and John M Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 2, 8. [shelf reserve]

Cheibub, José Antonio. 2007. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 6. [shelf reserve]

6. **Executive-legislative relationships (21 Mar)**

Cheibub, José A., Adam Przeworski, and Sebastian M. Saiegh. 2004. "Government coalitions and legislative success under Presidentialism and Parliamentarism." *British Journal of Political Science* 34: 565-587.

Strøm, Kaare. 2000. "Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 37: 261-90.

Elgie, Robert. 2016. "Three Waves of Semi-Presidential Studies." *Democratization* 23: 49-70. [this week p. 58-70]

Rasch, Bjørn, Shane Martin, and José A. Cheibub. 2015. "Investiture Rules Unpacked." In: *Parliaments and Government Formation: Unpacking Investiture Rules* eds. Bjørn Rasch, Shane Martin and José Antonio Cheibub. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cox, Gary W., and Scott Morgenstern. 2001. "Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents." *Comparative Politics* 33: 171-89.

7. **Coalitions (28 Mar)**

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

Strøm, Kaare, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Daniel Markham Smith. 2010. "Parliamentary Control of Coalition Governments." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 517-35.

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.

8. **Electoral systems: types and origins (4 Apr)**

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

Shugart, Matthew Sørberg. 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.

Leemann, Lucas, and Isabela Mares. 2014. "The Adoption of Proportional Representation." *The Journal of Politics* 76: 461-78.

9. **Electoral systems: consequences (25 Apr)**

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

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.

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.

Golder, Matt, and Gabriella Lloyd. 2014. "Re-Evaluating the Relationship between Electoral Rules and Ideological Congruence." *European Journal of Political Research* 53: 200-12.

Rudolph, Lukas, and Thomas Däubler. 2016. "Holding Individual Representatives Accountable: The Role of Electoral Systems." *The Journal of Politics* 78: 746-62.

10. **Legislative organization (2 May)**

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.

Yordanova, Nikoleta. 2009. "The Rationale Behind Committee Assignment in the European Parliament: Distributive, Informational and Partisan Perspectives." *European Union Politics* 10: 253-80.

11. **Legislative behaviour (9 May)**

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.

Crisp, Brian F., Maria C. Escobar-Lemmon, Bradford S. Jones, Mark P. Jones, and Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson. 2004. "Vote-Seeking Incentives and Legislative Representation in Six Presidential Democracies." *The Journal of Politics* 66: 823-46.

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

12. **Federalism and bicameralism (16 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.

13. **Courts (23 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.

14. **Review session (30 May)**
15. **Exam (Wed 14 Jun)**

5 Assessment

This course is worth 6 ECTS credits.

Grading will be based on a final written examination (on Wed, 14 June) with open-ended questions.

6 Contact

This course has an Ilias page that provides further material.

I can be reached by email (thomas.daeubler@mzes.uni-mannheim.de), and during the week a response within 24 hours is likely.

My office is A209 in Building A of A5, 6 (ring the bell at the entry to MZES). My office hours are Tuesdays 2-4pm. To avoid waiting times, please pre-register by email.