

**POLI 7972: Comparative Political Institutions**  
**Tuesdays: 3:00 – 5:50pm**  
**Location: 210 Stubbs**

**Professor:** Dr. Yann Kerevel  
**Office:** 230 Stubbs

**Office Hours:** W/Th: 1:30-2:30pm  
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**Overview**

This course will introduce you to the comparative study of political institutions, which includes the study of formal rules and organizations. We will cover political party systems, electoral rules, the differences between presidentialism and parliamentarism, institutional rules to enhance descriptive representation, judicial institutions and electoral management bodies.

**Required Texts (available electronically through LSU)**

Cheibub, José Antonio. 2006. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521542449

Chhibber, Pradeep, and Ken Kollman. 2004. *The Formation of National Party Systems: Federalism and Party Competition in Canada, Great Britain, India, and the United States*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691119328

Eisenstadt, Todd A. 2007. *Courting Democracy in Mexico: Party Strategies and Electoral Institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521035880

Samuels, David J., and Matthew S. Shugart. 2010. *Presidents, Parties and Prime Ministers: How the Separation of Powers Affects Party Organization and Behavior*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521689687

**Evaluation**

***Weekly writing assignments and discussion questions: 20%***

Each week in which there are assigned readings, I expect students to write a 2-3 page critical review of the week's readings. In your review, you should address at least some of the questions listed below, with an emphasis on question #6. In addition to writing the review, I also expect students to submit at least 3 questions related to the readings for discussion. The writing assignment and the 3 questions are due by 1pm on the day of class and should be submitted electronically by email.

1. What is the research question and why is it important?
2. What is the authors' theory (if there is one)?
3. How do the authors test the theory (i.e. what methods and data do they use)?
4. What are the authors' primary findings?
5. What are the authors' main conclusions and what are their implications?
6. What are your criticisms of the research?

***Class Participation: 20%***

I expect all students to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings and contribute to class discussion. Attendance is not optional and each unexcused absence will result in the loss of one whole letter grade. Students with an excused absence must write a 10-page literature review of the week's readings plus additional recommended readings on the same topic.

***Hypothesis Test: 15%***

You are to write a 2-3 page paper that provides a simple test of a hypothesis related to the effective number of political parties. You must also present your findings in class on February 21<sup>st</sup>. More details will be provided in class.

***Final Paper: 45%***

Each student is required to write a 20-25 empirical research paper of publishable quality related to the study of political institutions. Students are expected to submit a research proposal, a literature review, a rough draft, and a final draft. In addition, students will present their research on the final day of class. Students are also expected to meet individually with the professor as necessary as they develop their research paper. Below are the basic expectations of each component but further guidance will be provided throughout the course.

- *Research Proposal:* A brief 2-3 page proposal is due electronically on March 9th. At a minimum, the proposal should include a research question, a brief discussion that places the research question within the context of the larger literature, a brief discussion of how the question will be answered, and a reference list of relevant literature.
- *Literature Review:* By March 23rd, students must submit an 8-10 page review of the literature relevant to their research question. The literature review may be written as a stand alone assignment, or the beginning of a rough draft of the final research paper. The literature review is due electronically.
- *Rough Draft:* On April 7th, students must submit a rough draft of their final paper. Rough drafts should include everything except empirical results and a conclusion, although including empirical results is strongly recommended. Students should submit two copies of their rough draft, one that identifies the author, and one that is anonymous. The professor will circulate the anonymous versions to fellow classmates for peer review. Each student is required to write two anonymous reviews of the papers they receive. Student reviews are to be submitted electronically to the professor by April 17th and will then be circulated back to the authors along with comments from the professor.
- *Research Presentation:* On April 25th, each student will give an 8-10 minute formal presentation of their research paper to the class.
- *Final Paper:* A polished version of the final paper is due May 2nd. Students should submit a hard copy and an electronic version.

***Grading scale:***

97.0 to 100 A+, 93.0 to 96.9 A, 90.0 to 92.9 A-, 87.0 to 89.9 B+, 83.0 to 86.9 B, 80.0 to 82.9 B-, 77.0 to 79.9 C+, 73.0 to 76.9 C, 70.0 to 72.9 C-, 67.0 to 69.9 D+, 63.0 to 66.9 D, 60.0 to 62.9 D-, below 60.0 F

***Attendance and Late Assignments:*** Attendance for all class sessions is mandatory and as a rule I do not accept late assignments. I will subtract one whole letter grade for each missed class and for each late assignment.

### **Other Policies**

***Students requiring special accommodation:*** Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225)578-5919.

***General Statement on Academic Integrity:*** Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at [www.lsu.edu/saa](http://www.lsu.edu/saa). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

***Plagiarism and Citation Method:*** As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation methods for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats.

I will report all instances of plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing you may fail the assignment, fail the course and/or be asked to leave the graduate program.

### **Schedule of Required Readings**

#### **Week 1: January 17 (first class) Do Institutions Matter?**

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. *Patterns of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1, 15, 16. (Note: I have also provided chapters 2-3 in case you need greater familiarity with Lijphart's concepts. You do not need to cover chapters 1-3 in your weekly literature review).

Anderson, Liam. 2001. "The Implications of Institutional Design for Macroeconomic Performance: Reassessing the Claims of Consensus Democracy." *Comparative Political Studies* 34(4): 429-52.

Scott Gates, Benjamin A. T. Graham, Yonatan Lupu, Håvard Strand, and Kaare W. Strøm, "Power Sharing, Protection, and Peace," *The Journal of Politics* 78, no. 2 (April 2016): 512-526

Doyle, D., 2011. The Legitimacy of Political Institutions: Explaining Contemporary Populism in Latin America. *Comparative Political Studies*, 44(11), pp.1447-1473.

### **Week 2: January 24 Origins of Party Systems 1**

Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1990 [1967]. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *The West European Party System*, ed. P. Mair. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Torcal, Mariano, and Scott Mainwaring. 2003. "The Political Recrafting of Social Bases of Party Competition: Chile, 1973-95." *British Journal of Political Science* 33(1): 55-84.

Enyedi, Zsolt. 2005. "The Role of Agency in Cleavage Formation." *European Journal of Political Research* 44: 697-720.

Kitschelt, H. and Kselman, D.M., 2013. Economic development, democratic experience, and political parties' linkage strategies. *Comparative political studies*, 46(11), pp.1453-1484.

Margit Tavits and Natalia Letki , "From Values to Interests? The Evolution of Party Competition in New Democracies," *The Journal of Politics* 76, no. 1 (January 2014): 246-258.

### **Week 3: January 31 Origins of Party Systems 2**

Chhibber, Pradeep, and Ken Kollman. 2004. *The Formation of National Party Systems: Federalism and Party Competition in Canada, Great Britain, India, and the United States*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

### **Week 4: February 7 Electoral Rules and Party Systems**

Amorim Neto, Octavio, and Gary Cox. 1997. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 41(1): 149-174.

Clark, William Roberts, and Matt Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws." *Comparative Political Studies* 39(6): 679-708.

Stoll, H., 2008. Social Cleavages and the Number of Parties. *Comparative Political Studies*, 41(11), pp.1439-1465.

Potter, J.D., 2014. Demographic diversity and district-level party systems. *Comparative Political Studies*, 47(13), pp.1801-1829.

Lublin, D. (2015) 'Electoral Systems, Ethnic Heterogeneity and Party System Fragmentation', *British Journal of Political Science*, , pp. 1–17.

### **Week 5: February 14 Consequences of Electoral Rules**

Ferrara, Federico & Erik S. Herron. 2005. "Going It Alone? Strategic Entry under Mixed Electoral Rules." *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 16–31.

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 (3): 823-846.

Kedar, O., Harsgor, L. and Sheinerman, R. A. (2016), Are Voters Equal under Proportional Representation? *American Journal of Political Science*, 60: 676–691

Carey, J. M. and Hix, S. (2011), The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems. *American Journal of Political Science*, 55: 383–397.

Gary W. Cox, Jon H. Fiva, and Daniel M. Smith, "The Contraction Effect: How Proportional Representation Affects Mobilization and Turnout," *The Journal of Politics* 78, no. 4 (October 2016): 1249-1263.

### **Week 6: February 21 Counting Parties Presentations**

*Recommended Readings:*

Molinar, J., 1991. Counting the Number of Parties: An Alternative Index. *American Political Science Review*, 85(04), pp.1383-1391.

Golosov, G.V., 2010. The Effective Number of Parties A New Approach. *Party Politics*, 16(2), pp.171-192.

Laakso, M. and Taagepera, R., 1979. The "Effective" Number of Parties: A Measure with Application to West Europe". *Comparative political studies*, 12(1), p.3-27.

### **Week 7: February 28 (no class, Mardi Gras)**

### **Week 8: March 7 Presidentialism v Parliamentarism 1**

Cheibub, José Antonio. 2006. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **March 9<sup>th</sup>: Research proposal due**

### **Week 9: March 14 Presidentialism & Parliamentarism**

Samuels, David J., and Matthew S. Shugart. 2010. *Presidents, Parties and Prime Ministers: How the Separation of Powers Affects Party Organization and Behavior*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **Week 10: March 21 Descriptive Representation 1**

Clayton, A., 2015. Women's Political Engagement Under Quota-Mandated Female Representation Evidence From a Randomized Policy Experiment. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(3): 333-369.

Hughes, Melanie M. 2011. "Intersectionality, Quotas, and Minority Women's Political Representation Worldwide." *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 604-620.

Bhavnani, Rikhil R. 2009. Do electoral quotas work after they are withdrawn? Evidence from a natural experiment in India. *American Political Science Review* 103(1): 23-35.

O'Brien, Diana Z., and Johanna Rickne. 2016. "Gender Quotas and Women's Political Leadership." *American Political Science Review* 110(1): 112-126.

Roberts, A., Seawright, J. and Cyr, J.M., 2013. Do Electoral Laws Affect Women's Representation?. *Comparative Political Studies*, 46(12), pp.1555-1581.

### **March 23: Lit Review Due**

#### **Week 11: March 28 Descriptive Representation 2**

Crisp, B.F., Demirkaya, B., Schwindt-Bayer, L.A. and Millian, C., 2016. The Role of Rules in Representation: Group Membership and Electoral Incentives. *British Journal of Political Science*, pp.1-21.

DUNNING, T. and NILEKANI, J. (2013) 'Ethnic Quotas and Political Mobilization: Caste, Parties, and Distribution in Indian Village Councils', *American Political Science Review*, 107(1), pp. 35–56.

Goodnow, R. and Moser, R.G., 2012. Layers of Ethnicity The Effects of Ethnic Federalism, Majority-Minority Districts, and Minority Concentration on the Electoral Success of Ethnic Minorities in Russia. *Comparative Political Studies*, 45(2), pp.167-193.

REYNOLDS, A. (2013) 'Representation and Rights: The Impact of LGBT Legislators in Comparative Perspective', *American Political Science Review*, 107(2), pp. 259–274.

#### **Week 12: April 4 Institutional Design and Democratization**

Eisenstadt, Todd A. 2007. *Courting Democracy in Mexico: Party Strategies and Electoral Institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **April 7: Rough Draft Due**

### **April 11: No class, Spring Break**

### **April 17: Peer Review Due**

#### **Week 14: April 18 Judicial Institutions**

Birch, Sarah. 2008. "Electoral Institutions and Popular Confidence in Electoral Processes: A Cross-National Analysis." *Electoral Studies* 27(2): 305-320.

Hartlyn, Jonathan, Jennifer McCoy, and Thomas M. Mustillo. 2008. "Electoral Governance Matters: Explaining the Quality of Elections in Contemporary Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 41(1): 73-98.

Iaryczower, Matías, Pablo T. Spiller, and Mariano Tommasi. 2002. "Judicial Independence in Unstable Environments, Argentina 1935-1998." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4): 699-716.

Herron, E.S. and Randazzo, K.A., 2003. The relationship between independence and judicial review in post-communist courts. *Journal of Politics*, 65(2), pp.422-438.

**Week 15: April 25 - Final Presentations**

**May 2: Final Papers Due.**