

COURSE SYLLABUS

Political Science 6337: Comparative Institutions
2:30-5:15 p.m., Monday, Fall Semester, 2010

Contact Information

Marianne Stewart

Office E-Mail: mstewart@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and by appointment

Office Location: 3.226 GR

Office Phone: (972) 883-2011

Course Information

The general objective of this course is to introduce students to rigorous approaches involving the comparative analysis of governmental and political institutions in different settings. The specific objectives of the course are to help students learn how to:

- describe the tenets of, and the similarities and differences among, major methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of institutions in comparative perspective;
- describe and evaluate various designs of institutions in different settings;
- evaluate research contributions involving how the design and functions of institutions affect, and are affected by, changes in different contexts of human decisionmaking and behavior.

Books

Required - Rhodes, R.A.W., Sarah A. Binder, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Required and Recommended (Selective) - Polsby, Nelson W., ed. 1998-2010. *Annual Review of Political Science*. Palo Alto: Annual Reviews.

Available through UTD McMerritt Library EBSCO Host at
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&jid=84B&site=e-host-live>

Calendar

August 23. An Introduction to The Course.

August 30-September 13. Methodological and Theoretical Approaches to The Study of Institutions.

Required Reading

Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:

James March and Johan P. Olsen, "Normative Institutionalism," ch. 1

Ken Shepsle, "Rational Choice Institutionalism," ch. 2

Elizabeth Sanders, "Historical Institutionalism," ch. 3

Colin Hayin, "Constructivist Institutionalism," ch. 4

Chris Ansell, "Network Institutionalism," ch. 5

R.A.W. Rhodes, "Old Institutionalism," ch. 6

Recommended Reading

Almond, Gabriel A. 1960. "Introduction: A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics." In Gabriel A. Almond and James S. Coleman, eds., *The Politics of the Developing Areas*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Holt, Robert T. and John E. Turner, eds. 1970. *The Methodology of Comparative Research*. New York: The Free Press.

Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:

Kathleen Thelen, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," 2: 369-404.

Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. 1970. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

September 6. Labor Day - No Class.

September 20-27. Constitutional and Governance Arrangements*Required Reading*

Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:

Bob Jessop, "State and State Building," ch. 7

Jose Harris, "Development of Civil Society," ch. 8

Peter Shane, "Constitutions," ch. 11

Josep Colomer, "Constitutions (Comparative)," ch. 12

Alberta Sbragia, "American Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations," ch. 13

Brian Galligan, "Comparative Federalism," ch. 14

Jean Claude Thoening, "Territorial Institutions," ch. 15

Gerry Stoker, "Comparative Local Governance," ch. 25

Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:

Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks, "Does Efficiency Shape the Territorial Structure of Government?," 12; 225-241.

Sarah M. Morehouse and Malcolm E. Jewell, "State as Laboratories: A Reprise," 7: 177-203.

Ronald L. Watts, "Federalism, Federal Political Systems, and Federations," 1: 117-137.

Erik Wibbels, "Madison in Baghdad?: Decentralization and Federalism in Comparative Politics," 9: 165-188.

Recommended Reading

Filippov, Mikhail, Peter C. Ordeshook and Olga Shvetsova. 2004. *Designing Federalism: A Theory of Self-Sustainable Federal Institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Gavison, Ruth. 2002. "What Belongs in a Constitution," *Constitutional Political Economy* 13: 89-105.

North, Douglass C., and Barry R. Weingast. 1996. "The evolution of modern institutions of growth – Constitutions and commitment," in Lee J. Alston, Thrain Eggertsson and Douglass C. North., eds., *Empirical Studies in Institutional Change*, ch. 4. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Ordeshook, Peter. 2002. "Are 'Western' Constitutions Relevant to Anything Other than The Countries They Serve?," *Constitutional Political Economy* 13: 3-24.

Strayer, Joseph R. 1970. *On The Medieval Origins of the Modern State*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

October 4. Test #1.

October 4-11. Executive and Legislative Institutions.*Required Reading*

- Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:
 William Howell, "Executives - The American Presidency," ch. 16
 R.A.W. Rhodes, "Executives in Parliamentary Systems," ch. 17
 Mathew Shugart, "Comparative Executive-Legislative Relations," ch. 18
 John Carey, "Legislative Organization," ch. 22
 Ric Uslaner and Thomas Zittel, "Legislative Behavior," ch. 23
 John Uhr, "Bicameralism," ch. 24
- Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:
 Nigel Bowles, "Studying the Presidency," 2: 1-23.
 Nelson W. Polsby and Erick Schickler, "Landmarks in The Study of Congress since 1945," 5: 333-367.
 Peverill Squire, "Historical Evolution of Legislatures in the United States," 9: 19-44.

October 18. Judicial Institutions.

Required Reading

- Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:
 Jim Gibson, "Judicial Institutions," ch. 26
 Kevin McGuire, "Judicial Processes," ch. 27
- Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:
 Lawrence Baum, "The Supreme Court in American Politics," 6: 161-180.
 Gretchen Helmke and Frances Rosenbluth, "Regimes and the Rule of Law: Judicial Independence in Comparative Perspective," 12: 345-366.

October 25. Bureaucratic and Regulatory Institutions.

Required Reading

- Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:
 Don Kettl, "Public Bureaucracies," ch. 19
 Jacob Hacker, "Welfare State," ch. 20
 John Braithwaite, "The Regulatory State?," ch. 21
- Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:
 Johan P. Olsen, "The Ups and Downs of Bureaucratic Organization," 11: 13-37.

Recommended Reading

- Huber, John D. and Charles R. Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

November 1-8. Direct Democracy, Electoral Systems, and Political Parties

Required Reading

- Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:
 John Aldrich, "Political Parties," ch. 28
 Shaun Bowler, "Electoral Systems," ch. 29
 Ian Budge, "Institutions of Direct Democracy," ch. 30
- Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:
 Kenneth Benoit, "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions," 10: 363-390.
 Gary Cox, "Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination," 2: 145-161.
 Jennifer Gandhi and Ellen Lust-Okar, "Elections Under Authoritarianism," 12: 403-422.

Recommended Reading

- Tavits, Margit. 2009. *Presidents with Prime Ministers: Do Direct Elections Matter?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

November 8. Test #2.**November 15-22. Economic and International Institutions.***Required Reading*

Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:

- Michael Moran, "Economic Institutions," ch. 9
- Richard Higgott, "International Political Institutions," ch. 31
- John Duffield, "International Security Institutions," ch. 32
- Lisa Martin, "International Economic Institutions," ch. 33
- Ann Florini, "International NGOs," ch. 34

Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:

- Stanley L. Engerman and Kenneth L. Sokoloff, "Debating the Role of Institutions in Political and Economic Development," 11: 119-135.
- David M. Hart, "Business in Not An Interest Group: On The Study of Companies in American National Politics," 7: 47-69.
- Harold K. Jacobson, "International Institutions and System Transformation," 3: 140-166.
- J. Jupille and J.A. Caporaso, "Institutionalism and The European Union: Beyond International Relations and Comparative Politics," 2: 429-444.
- Oscar Molina and Martin Rhodes, "Corporatism: The Past, Present, and Future of a Concept," 5: 305-331.

November 29-December 6. Institutional Design and Outcomes*Required Reading*

Rhodes, Binder and Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*:

- Samuel H. Beer, "Encounters with Modernity," ch. 35
- Hugh Hecló, "Thinking Institutionally," ch. 37
- Klaus Von Beyme, "Political Institutions - Old and New," ch. 38

PS: Political Science & Politics. 2000. Special Issue: The Public Value of Political Science Research, volume XXXIII. Washington: American Political Science Association.

Available at http://www.apsanet.org/content_13155.cfm

- Michael Munger, "Political Science and Fundamental Research," pp. 25-30
- Elinor Ostrom, "The Danger of Self-Evident Truths," pp. 33-44

Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science*:

- Robert Bates, Robert, "State Failure," 11: 1-12.
- Steven Levitsky and Maria Victoria Murillo, "Variation in Institutional Strength," 12: 115-133.
- Adam Preworski, "Self-Government in Our Times," 12:71-92

December 6. Review Essay Due.*Grading Criteria and Assignments*

Class participation: 25%; Test 1: 25%; Test 2: 25%; Review essay: 25%.

A+: 95-100%; A-: 90-94%; B+: 83-89%; B: 77-82%; B-: 70-76%; C+: 65-69%; C: 60-64%; F: below 60%.

Class Participation: Regular attendance; Assigned reading prior to the class meeting when it will be discussed; Class presentations based on assigned readings; Constructive and frequent contributions to seminar discussions.

Two Tests: Review questions are available one week before each test. Test #1 is scheduled for October 4, and Test #2 is scheduled for November 8. All students are expected to take the tests on these dates. The tests are closed book and essay answer.

A Review Essay: a 15-page, double-spaced, typed/word-processed, paper that:

- introduces a topic involving the study of comparative institutions, and discusses why it is interesting, important, and researchable;
- reviews a selection of relevant research literature that includes published (or presented) scholarly books, articles, or both on the topic in either a chronological (date-of-publication) or a knowledge-production (set-of-ideas) form;
- discusses major theoretical and methodological perspectives, conceptual problems and advances, and key findings to date on the topic selected and involving the study of comparative institutions;
- lists endnotes and references appropriate in form.

The paper is due on December 6. All students are expected to comply with this date.

Note

In addition to the above, students are expected to:

- know that this syllabus, including calendar/timelines, is subject to change at the discretion of the Professor;
- access and read related policy material at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>