COMPARATIVE POLITICS: INSTITUTIONS

Objectives
This seminar is designed to help students prepare for the institutional part of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination in comparative politics and for comparative political research, including doctoral dissertations. Though this seminar covers a wide range of subjects, it will only tangentially treat subjects such as political development, mass behavior, interest groups and social movements, and public policy. Students preparing for the Ph.D. comprehensive exam should therefore seek other opportunities to study these topics.

The seminar is organized around ten themes:

1. Introduction: Institutions and Institutional Analysis
2. Democracy and Autocracy
3. Federalism, Consociationalism, and Power-sharing
4. Presidentialism and Executives
5. Parliamentary Democracy and Legislatures
6. Coalitions and Coalition Bargaining
7. Elections and Party Systems
8. Party Development and Organization
9. Bureaucracy, Delegation, and Law
10. Institutions and Economic Performance

Format
The seminar will meet on a weekly basis. Generally, each week will introduce a new theme in the comparative study of political institutions. For each theme, the reading list distinguishes between required and recommended readings. Required readings will form the basis of the general seminar discussions, and all students should read them carefully and critically before class. Recommended readings are additional readings of broad theoretical importance, with which students preparing for the comprehensive exam should gain familiarity. These readings are also suitable for literature review papers, though they are by no means an exhaustive list of such readings.

Assignments
All students must do the assigned readings, write two discussion papers (5-7 pages in length), complete a take-home final exam, participate actively in the seminar discussions, and give regular presentations on the readings. Each week, students will be assigned specific readings to review. These presentations (approx. 15 minutes) should summarize a set of readings assigned for that session and relate them to other literature on that topic. They should review and critique the arguments and tests made in these pieces and comment critically on their assumptions, arguments, research designs, measures, results, and implications. Finally, presentations should raise questions for discussion and future research. Students giving presentations should also prepare brief outlines for distribution to the other seminar participants. Outlines and presentations should be designed to raise general questions for seminar discussion and to tie the material in with the general seminar agenda. NOTE: Students are expected to do all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it, not just their particular presentation assignment.

The discussion papers are due in class and should provide careful and concise reviews of some body of readings (which may include recommended as well as required texts). Discussion papers may, but need not, be based on seminar presentations. Your analysis of the reading should go beyond summary toward critical commentary and a discussion of the issues that unite the work. The papers should also make an argument. Thus, early in the paper (first paragraph), there should be a line that says: “in this paper, I argue that . . .” (Or something closely related). The argument should be stated clearly and concisely and the rest of the paper should tie into this argument. Writing style matters! Be focused and succinct and avoid long quotations. Students should in principle write one paper on one of the topics covered in weeks 1-5 and one paper on one of the topics of weeks 6-10, though you may request an exemption if you believe it would improve your learning experience.

The first of the discussion papers will be due no later than October 26, the second no later than November 23. The take-home exam will tentatively be due on December 9. Grades will be based on course assignments in the
following way: discussion papers 20% each, take-home exam 40%, presentations and class participation 20%.
Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under very pressing circumstances, however, I will discourage you from requesting such options.

Readings
This seminar covers a large body of literature, much of which you may want to have at your disposal, but I expect your purchasing decisions to be guided by your professional judgment as well as by your budget constraint. Therefore, no books have been ordered by the UCSD Bookstore for this course, but I will be happy to provide suggestions.

1. INTRODUCTION: INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS (September 28).

Required:
James G. March and Johan P. Olsen, "Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions." Governance 9, 3 (July 1996), 247-64.

Recommended:
Symposium on "The Return to the State," American Political Science Review 82, 3 (September 1988), 853-901.
John M. Carey, “Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions.” Comparative Political Studies 33, 6-7 (August-September 2000), 735-61.
2. **DEMOCRACY AND AUTOCRACY** (October 5)

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

3. **FEDERALISM, CONSOCIATIONALISM, AND POWER-SHARING** (October 12)

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
The Federalist Papers.


4. **PRESIDENTIALISM AND EXECUTIVES** (October 19)

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Donald L. Horowitz, Seymour Martin Lipset, and Juan J. Linz, "Debate--Presidents vs. Parliaments," *Journal of Democracy* 1, 4 (Fall 1990), 73-91.


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


5. **PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND LEGISLATURES** (October 26)

**Required:**

- Arend Lijphart, *Patterns of Democracy*, ch. 11.

**Recommended:**


6. **COALITIONS AND COALITION BARGAINING** (November 2)

**Required:**

- David Austen-Smith and Jeffrey S. Banks, "Elections, Coalitions, and Legislative Outcomes," *American Political Science Review* 82, 2 (June 1988), 405-422.

**Recommended:**
7. ELECTIONS AND PARTY SYSTEMS (November 9).

Required:
Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy. chs. 5 and 8.

Recommended:


8. **PARTY ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT** (November 16)

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


André Blais, Donald Blake, and Stéphanie Dion, "Do Parties Make a Difference?" *American Journal of Political Science* 37, 1 (February 1993), 40-62.


9. BUREAUCRACY, DELEGATION, AND LAW (November 23)

Required:

Recommended:

10. INSTITUTIONS AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (November 30)

Required:
Adam Przeworski et al., Democracy and Development. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, ch. 3.

Recommended:


