

INTL 4300: Comparative Political Institutions

University of Georgia

Summer 2017 (May 9-30), M-F, 2:00-4:45pm

Instructor:	Micah G. Redman
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Office Hours:	Wednesday and Thursday, 1:00 - 2:00
Classroom:	MLC 147

Course description and objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to foundational arguments related to political institutions in comparative context. In other words, we seek to explore the general principles embodied in the specific institutional arrangements present in political systems around the world. Our inquiry will be broad rather than deep, focused on both describing political institutions and explaining their impact.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade will be based on the grades received for the 10 assignments listed in Table 1. Instructions for each of the four data labs will be distributed at the time they are assigned. Quizzes will be administered in class. There will be no opportunities for makeup quizzes. **However**, I will drop your lowest quiz score and count the highest score twice. This means you can miss one quiz without penalty.

Table 1: Assignments

Assignment	Proportion of grade
Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3	10%
Quiz 4	10%
Quiz 5	10%
Quiz 6	10%
Data lab 1	10%
Data lab 2	10%
Data lab 3	10%
Data lab 4	10%

Course Policies

Attendance

Much of the content of this course will consist of my lectures and the accompanying in-class discussion. In order for you to learn the material, it is essential that you attend class and participate in the discussion. I will occasionally take attendance during class meetings. Your attendance record, along with your contribution to class discussions, will be used to determine the participation portion of your grade. If you are absent from class, you must provide sufficient information for the absence to be excused. Absences can be excused for officially documented college-sanctioned event, a documented medical excuse, or a family emergency. In the event that an excused absence keeps you from attending class on the day a test is given, the test will be made up at the nearest possible time to the test date. Unexcused absences on test days will result in the receipt of a zero for the test.

Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Class Discussion

In order to cultivate a scholarly and reasoned discourse, it is essential to maintain a respectful environment during class discussions. While the discussion of political issues can often become heated, intelligent debate must avoid any form of personal attack. All students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their classmates. Disrespectful language of any kind will not be tolerated.

Communicating with the Instructor

From time to time, I will communicate with you via email, using the email address assigned to you by the university. The content of these emails may include changes to assignments, important dates, and other information pertinent to the course. I hope you will take the opportunity to meet with me either during office hours or by making an appointment.

Changes to the Syllabus

As the semester progresses, I may make changes to the syllabus. To ensure that you are informed of such changes, it is essential that you attend class and check your email regularly.

Course Schedule

Note: There is no text book for the course. Readings marked with an asterisk(*), will be distributed by the instructor. All other readings should be accessed by students via the UGA library website.

Session 1 – Introduction (May 9)

Review syllabus

Exercise 1: Setting goals for the course

Exercise 2: Social engineering: the example of Iraq

Readings:

“How Iraq’s elections set back democracy,” Op-Ed by Ayad Allawi *

“Iraq Electoral Fact Sheet,” United Nations *

Session 2 – What can we learn by studying institutions? (May 10)

Lecture: Introduction to causal inference

Readings:

Krugman (1995)*

Przeworski (2004)*

Session 3 – Democracy vs. Autocracy (May 11)

Readings:

Przeworski et al. (2000)*

Dahl (1971)*

Session 4 – Regime type and hunger (May 12)

Readings:

Dreze and Sen (1989, chaps. 8&11)*

Session 5 – Regime type and health (May 15)

Readings:

McGuire (2010)*

Besley and Kudamatsu (2006)*

Session 6 – Data lab 1 (May 16)

Data lab 1: Getting to know R

Session 7 – Data lab 2 (May 17)

Data lab 2: Democracy and health

Session 8 – Institutions and Prosperity (May 18)

Readings

Gourevitch (2008)*

Session 9 – Data lab 3 (May 19)

Data lab 3: Institutions and prosperity

Session 10 – Types of democracy (May 22)

Readings:

Lijphart (1999, chap.s 1-3)*

Session 11 – Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism (May 23)

Readings:

Lijphart (1999, chap 6)*

Linz (1994)*

Session 12 – Single party dominant systems (May 24)

Readings:

Magaloni (2006, introduction)*

Session 13 – Federalism (May 25)

Readings TBA

Session 14 – Federalism II (May 26)

Readings TBA

Session 15 Data lab 4– (May 29)

Data lab 4: TBA

Session 16 – Closing (May 30)

Tie it all together by coming back to Iraq example?

References

- Besley, Timothy and M. Kudamatsu. 2006. "Health and democracy." *American Economic Review* 96(2):313–318.
- Dahl, Robert. 1971. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press.
- Dreze, Jen and Amartya Sen. 1989. *Hunger and Public Action*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Gourevitch, Peter. 2008. "The Role of Politics in Economic Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11:137–159.
- Krugman, Paul. 1995. *Development, Geography, and Economic Theory*. MIT Press chapter The Fall and Rise of Development Economics.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. Yale University Press.
- Linz, Juan. 1994. Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy: Does it make a difference? In *The Failure of Presidential Democracy*, ed. Juan Linz and Arturo Valenzuela. The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2006. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McGuire, J. W. 2010. *Wealth, Health, and Democracy in East Asia and Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2004. "Institutions Matter?" *Government and Opposition* 39(4):527–540.
- Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub and Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. Yale University Press.