

INSTITUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
WEDNESDAYS 2–4:30 PM, GIBSON HALL 142
SPRING 2017

PROFESSOR ANNE MENG

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OFFICE HOURS: WEDNESDAYS 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, GIBSON HALL S284

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This goal of this graduate seminar is to provide students with an introduction to comparative political institutions with an emphasis on developing countries, authoritarian regimes, new democracies, and post-conflict states. The literature in this field is incredibly broad and it would be impossible to provide comprehensive coverage in a single seminar. Therefore we will focus our attention on more recent studies and current debates in the field, and we will read various articles and books that use different kinds of methods.

By the end of the course, each student should have a good introductory overview of the comparative literature on political institutions in the developing world. We will develop the skills to think critically about substantive arguments, research methods, and evidence used to support one's thesis. Students will learn how to produce a research paper that will serve as the backbone of a prospectus, dissertation paper, or publishable article. We will also learn how to write a referee report, prepare an APSA style conference presentation, and serve as a discussant for a talk.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation – 20%

Graduate seminars are an ideal place to learn how to make constructive comments, ask engaging questions, and test new ideas. Please read the papers and books closely, and come prepared to engage closely and thoroughly with the material!

2. Referee Reports – 30%

Each student is required to write 3 referee reports. Referee reports should be around 2 pages, and the instructor will provide sample referee reports. Referee reports should be emailed to the entire group by 2 PM on Tuesday before class. Students can pick any 3 weeks between January 25 and April 12 that they would like to present. Everyone should read the referee reports before class and be prepared to discuss them. Students who wrote referee reports will be the point person for the seminar that week. We will open the discussion with brief presentations where the student will provide key ideas, themes, and questions that we can discuss.

3. Research Paper – 50%

Proposal – due **March 8**

Working Draft – due **April 5**
Peer Review – due **April 12**
Conference Style Presentation – **April 19, April 26**
Final Paper – due **May 10**

The field of comparative political institutions is an active research area with a number of open questions remaining. The main assignment of this class is to produce a research paper that addresses a question you find interesting. Your research paper should include all the components of an article published in a political science journal including: (1) An introduction that identifies the research question and explains why this question is important. (2) A literature review that summarizes existing research on this topic and a discussion of how your paper relates to these existing studies. (3) A theoretical argument and discussion of key independent variable(s) and mechanism(s) that drive variation in the outcome that you are looking at. (4) A qualitative or quantitative test of your argument. (5) Conclusion summarizing your findings.

We will work on the paper in multiple stages. First, a one-page proposal that describes your research question will be due on **March 8**. Second, a working draft of your paper will be due on **April 5**. I suggest that the working draft include the introduction, lit review section, and working theory section – the more you submit at this stage, the more feedback you will get. Each student will exchange their draft with an assigned partner and provide feedback on their partner's draft. The feedback should be at least 2 pages in length and will be due on **April 12**. We will have APSA style research presentations during the last 2 sessions of class (**April 19, April 26**), where each student will prepare a 15-minute presentation. In addition, each presentation will have a discussant. The final research paper should be around 10,000 words (standard journal length) and will be due on Wednesday, **May 10**.

I highly encourage students to come talk to me during office hours about the research paper throughout the semester, and especially during the proposal stage. I can give you early feedback about the feasibility of the topic and we can discuss possible arguments and strategies for testing the argument.

SCHEDULE

We will read all of the following books. They are available new and used on Amazon.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2007. *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies*. Cambridge University Press.

Posner, Daniel. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge University Press.

Nalepa, Monika. 2010. *Skeletons in the Closet: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Riedl, Rachel. 2016. *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 1 (1/18): Introduction

PART I: HOW SHOULD WE STUDY INSTITUTIONS?

Week 2 (1/25): Approaches and challenges to studying institutions

Hall, Peter and Rosemary Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44: 936-957.

Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94 (2): 251-267.

Greif, Avner, and David D. Laitin. 2004. "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4): 633-652

From the Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions (2015):

"Formal and Informal Institutions" by Hans-Joachim Lauth

"Equilibrium Analysis of political institutions" by Milan Svobik

"Using field experiments to study political institutions" by Guy Grossman and Laura Paler

PART II: TOPICS AND THEMES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

(aka Institutions as the Dependent Variable)

Week 3 (2/1): Ethnic Politics and Institutions

Posner, Daniel. 2005. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 4 (2/8): Patronage and Clientelism

Calvo, Ernesto and Maria Victoria Murillo. 2004. "Who Delivers? Partisan Clients in the Argentine Electoral Market." *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (4): 742-757.

Stokes, Susan. 2005. "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina." *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 315-325.

Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55: 399-422.

Arriola, Leonardo. 2009. "Patronage and Political Stability in Africa," *Comparative Political Studies* 42(10): 1339-1362.

Week 5 (2/15): Authoritarian Institutions

Lust-Okar, Ellen. 2006. "Elections Under Authoritarianism: Preliminary Lessons from Jordan," *Democratization* 13(3): 456-471.

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2008. "Credible Power-Sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule," *Comparative Political Studies*, 41(4): 715-741.

Boix, Carles and Milan Svolik. 2013. "The Foundation of Limited Authoritarian Government: Institutions, Commitment, and Power-Sharing in Dictatorships." *The Journal of Politics* 75(2): 300-316.

Truex, Rory. 2014. "The Returns to Office in a "Rubber Stamp" Parliament." *American Political Science Review* 108(2): 235-251.

Week 6 (2/22): Post-Transition Politics and Institutional Change

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2007. *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 7 (3/1): Party and Party Systems in New Democracies

Riedl, Rachel. 2016. *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 8 (3/8): No class (Spring Break!) [Research Proposal due]

Week 9 (3/15): Transitional Justice

Nalepa, Monika. 2010. *Skeletons in the Closet: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

PART III: EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONS (aka *Institutions as the Independent Variable*)

Week 10 (3/22): Electoral Manipulation and Election Monitoring

Simpser, Alberto. 2012. "Does Electoral Manipulation Discourage Voter Turnout: Evidence from Mexico." *The Journal of Politics* 74(3): 782-795.

Donno, Daniela and Nasos Roussias. 2012. "Does Cheating Pay? The Effect of Electoral Misconduct on Party Systems." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(5): 575-605.

Hyde, Susan. 2011. "Catch Us if You Can: Election Monitoring and International Norm Creation." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 356-369.

Beaulieu, Emily and Susan Hyde. 2009. "In the Shadow of Democracy Promotion: Strategic Manipulation, International Observers, and Election Boycotts." *Comparative Political Studies* 42(3): 392-415.

Week 11 (3/29): Institutional Performance and Public Goods

North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 49(4): 803-832.

Kasara, Kimuli. 2007. "Tax Me if You Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101(1): 159-172.

Malesky, Edmund, Cuong Viet Nguyen, and Anh Tran. 2014. "The Impact of Recentralization on Public Services: A Difference-In-Differences Analysis of the Abolition of Elected Councils in Vietnam" *American Political Science Review* 108(1): 144-168.

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review*. 101(4): 709-725.

Week 12 (4/5): Economic Institutions, Reform, and Development

[Working Draft due]

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins Of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation," *American Economic Review* 91: 1369-1401.

Besley, Timothy and Torsten Persson. 2011. *Pillars of Prosperity: The Political Economics of Development Clusters*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 (Development Clusters), Chapter 2 (Fiscal Capacity)

Finkel, Evgeny, Scott Gehlbach, and Tricia Olsen. 2015. "Does Reform Prevent Rebellion? Evidence from Russia's Emancipation of the Serfs." *Comparative Political Studies* 48(8): 984-1019.

Week 13 (4/12): Political Violence

[Peer Review comments due]

Hafner-Burton, Emilie, Susan Hyde, and Ryan Jablonski. 2014. "When Do Governments Resort to Election Violence?" *British Journal of Political Science* 44(1): 149-179.

Brancati, Dawn and Jack Snyder. 2012. "Time to Kill: The Impact of Election Timing on Postconflict Stability." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57(5): 822-853.

Jha Saumitra and Steven Wilkinson. 2012. "Does Combat Experience Foster Organizational Skill? Evidence from Ethnic Cleansing during the Partition of South Asia." *American Political Science Review* 106(4): 883-907.

Tucker, Joshua. 2007. "Enough! Electoral Fraud, Collective Action Problems, and Post-Communist Colored Revolutions." *Perspectives on Politics* 5(3): 535-551.

Week 14 (4/19): Research Presentations

Week 15 (4/26): Research Presentations

[May 10: Final Research Papers Due]