

Comparative Executive Institutions

Dr. Alexandra Cockerham
T/TH 9:30-10:45am
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Course Description

This course compares the different types of democracies that exist around the world and why this distinction matters. There are several different ways to classify democracy. We will talk about some of these classification schemes but primarily focus on how the relationship between the executive branch and the legislature varies across democracies and what this means for governing. The structure of this relationship has important implications for democratic survival, the economy, accountability, representation, etc. This course is divided into three main components: (1) We will discuss several different ways to classify democracies and analyze the impacts that these differences have on various outcomes of interest; (2) We will examine how executive power (both presidential and prime ministerial) varies across systems; and (3) We will unify this democratic variation into a delegation framework where we discuss how each of these different systems is simply a different method through which citizens delegate power to their government. In this section we will also examine delegation relationships that take place within government—namely, the executive’s propensity to delegate to and manage the bureaucracy.

Required Materials

A. Lijphart. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Oxford University Press.

Shugart, Matthew Soberg and John M. Carey. 1992. *Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Grades

Final grades will be assessed through various measures of your performance in the course. The final grade will be made up of 100 points. The instructor reserves the right to lower the participation grade if students are on their laptops in class or being disruptive or unprofessional.

Table 1: Grades

| Task | Points |
|---------------|--------|
| Midterm | 30 |
| Final Exam | 40 |
| Participation | 30 |

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

Table 2: Letter Grades

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Excellent | A 100-93 | A- 92-90 | |
| Above Average | B+ 89-87 | B 86-83 | B- 82-80 |
| Average | C+ 79-77 | C 76-73 | C- 72-70 |
| Below Average | D+ 69-67 | D 66-63 | D- 62-60 |
| Unacceptable | F < 60 | | |

Examinations

There will be two in class exams. The dates are scheduled in the syllabus. For each examination, students will be responsible for knowing the material covered in the course up to the point of the exam. The final exam will be cumulative. Exams will be based on the material covered in class as well as material from the assigned readings. Exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and possibly short answer questions.

Students are expected to be present for all exams at the beginning of the exam period. Absences or late arrivals for exams will only be excused for University approved reasons. All make-up exams will be administered directly after the final exam on the last day of class.

Participation

Students are expected to attend every class. Throughout the semester, we will do 10 in class activities based on the readings and lecture material. These activities will be open-book and students will receive credit for their attendance as long as they are present and participate in the learning activity. Students will receive half credit for their name and the other half for the quality of their work. These activities will be conducted randomly throughout the semester. If a student misses class on the day the activity is conducted, they will lose points from their participation grade unless they provide the professor with a university-approved excuse within 48 hours of missing class.

Administrative Policy

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for planning ahead by checking the syllabus for upcoming readings and assignments. Students are responsible for all assigned readings. Keep in mind that not all reading material will be covered in class. Therefore it is imperative that students complete all readings and integrate them into the course as applicable. All readings are fair game for tests. In addition, all students are responsible for contributing to a positive learning environment. This means that students are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior to other students and the instructor. The instructor retains the right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is negatively contributing to the learning environment and the right to lower a student's grade. Students are expected to mute their electronic devices at the beginning of each class and keep their phones and laptops put away.

Extra Credit

There will be at least one extra credit question on the exams. There will be no other extra credit offered.

Late Work

All assignments are to be turned in on the announced due date. Late assignments will not be accepted without a University approved excuse. Late assignments with a university approved excuse are to be turned in within 48 hours of the originally designated due date.

Academic Honor Policy

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless the instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly and properly cited. Students are responsible for policing themselves with respect to plagiarism. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, academic misrepresentation, etc.) will receive a zero for the relevant assignment and will be reported to the proper university officials for further action. See the FSU handbook for more information on this.

Academic Accommodations

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and (2) Bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. If a student's accommodations change during the semester, the student will present an updated official letter from the SDRC outlining the specific modifications. See the FSU handbook for more information on this.

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Incomplete Grades

No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student PRIOR TO the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

Tuesday: **Introductions and Syllabus**

Part 1: Varieties of Democracy

Thursday: **Institutions and How to Study Them** (Lecture/Discussion Mix)

J. M. Carey. 2000. Parchment, Equilibria, and Institutions. *Comparative Political Studies*, 33(6): 735–761, READ: 735-739.

Kenneth A. Shepsle. 1989. “Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Rational Choice Approach.” *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 1(2): 131-147.

Week 2:

Tuesday: **Types of democracy** (Lecture)

A. Lijphart. The Westminster & Consensus Models of Democracy. In *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Oxford University Press, 1999. Chapter 2 and 3.

Thursday: **Types of democracy** (Lecture)

A. Lijphart. Executive-Legislative Relations: Patterns of Dominance and Balance of Power. In *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Oxford University Press, 1999. Chapter 7.

Week 3:

Tuesday: **Parliamentarism** (Discussion)

Shepsle, Kenneth, A., 2010. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions*, W.W. Norton and Co., New York, NY. Chapter 16, *Cabinet Government and Parliamentary Democracy*, Pages 513-529.

Thursday: **Presidentialism** (Discussion)

Shugart and Carey, 1992: Chapter 1: Basic Choices in Democratic Regime Types, p.1-17

Shugart and Carey, 1992: Chapter 2: Defining Regimes with Elected Presidents, p.18-22

Week 4:

Tuesday: **Why it Matters for Democratic Survival** (Lecture)

Stepan, Alfred and Cindy Skach. 1993. “Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism.” *World Politics* 46(1): 1-22.

Shugart and Carey, 1992: Chapter 3: Criticisms of Presidentialism and Responses p.28-49

Thursday: **Why it Matters for Democratic Survival** (Lecture)

Cheibub, Jose’ Antonio. 2006. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4 and 6.

Week 5:

Tuesday: **Why it Matters for Decision Making** (Discussion)

Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism, and Multipartyism." *British Journal of Political Science* 25(3): 289-326.

Thursday: **Why it Matters for Party Organization** (Lecture)

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. Chapters 2 and 3.

Week 6:

Tuesday: **Wrap up and Review**

Thursday: **Midterm**

Part 2: The Variance of Executive Power

Week 7:

Tuesday: **Executive Power: The Prime Minister** (Lecture)

A. Lijphart. 1999. Cabinets: Concentration Versus Sharing of Power. *In Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Chapter 6, pages 90–115. Oxford University Press.

Thursday: **Executive Power: The Prime Minister** (Discussion)

Huber, John. 1996. "The Vote of Confidence in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 90(2): 269-282.

Week 8:

Tuesday: **Executive Power: Overview on Presidential Power** (Lecture)

Shugart, Matthew Soberg and John M. Carey. 1992. Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7 and 8.

Thursday: **Executive Power: Unilateral Action** (Lecture)

Carey, John and Matthew Shugart. 1998. *Executive Decree Authority*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 10.

Week 9:

Tuesday: **Executive Power: Unilateral Action** (Discussion)

Pereira, Carlos, Timothy J. Power, and Lucio Rennó. 2005. "Under What Conditions do Presidents Resort to Decree Power? Theory and Evidence from the Brazilian Case." *Journal of Politics* 67(1): 178-200.

Thursday: **Executive Power: The Veto** (Discussion)

Cameron, Charles M. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 10:

Tuesday: **Executive Power: Going Public** (Lecture)
Oxford Handbook of the American Presidency

Thursday: **Executive Power: Going Public** (Discussion)

Cockerham, Alexandra G., Amanda Driscoll, and Joan Joseph. "Going Public in Comparative Perspective: Presidents' Public Appeals Under Pure Presidentialism."

Week 11:

Tuesday: **Executive Power: Legislative Weight of the Executive** (Discussion)

Aleman, Eduardo and Ernesto Calvo. 2010. "Unified Government, Bill Approval and the Legislative Weight of the President." *Comparative Political Studies* 43(4): 511-534.

Kousser, Thad, and Justin H. Phillips. 2012. *The Power of American Governors: Winning on Budgets and Losing on Policy*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

Thursday: **Effects of Presidential Institutions on Broader Outcomes** (Discussion)

Wiesehomeier, Nina and Kenneth Benoit. 2009. "Presidents, Parties and Policy Competition," *Journal of Politics* 71(4): 1435-1447.

Week 12:

Tuesday: **Effects of Presidential Institutions on Broader Outcomes** (Discussion)

Samuels, David. 2004. "Presidentialism and Accountability for the Economy in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 98(3): 425-46.

Part 3: Delegation

Thursday: **A Unifying Framework: Delegation Dynamics** (Lecture)

Bendor, Jonathan; Glazer, Ami; Hammond, Thomas H. 2001. Theories of Delegation. *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Kedar, Orit. 2005. "When Moderate Voters Prefer Extreme Parties: Policy Balancing in Parliamentary Elections." *American Political Science Review* 99(2): 185-199.

Week 13:

Tuesday: **A Unifying Framework: Delegation Dynamics** (Lecture)

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Hilton Root, eds. 2000. *Governing for Prosperity*. New Haven: Yale. Chapters 1 and 2.

Thursday: **When Executives Delegate: The Bureaucracy** (Lecture)

Edwards, George C. 2013. *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*. Stamford: Cengage Learning, Chapter 8.

Week 14:

Tuesday: **The Executive and the Bureaucracy: Differences between Systems** (Discussion)

Moe, Terry M. and Michael Caldwell. 1994. "The Institutional Foundations of Democratic Government: A Comparison of Presidential and Parliamentary Systems". *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 171-195.

Thursday: **The Executive and the Bureaucracy: Presidential Control** (Lecture)

Lewis, David E. 2010. The politics of presidential appointments; Chapters 2 and 3 on Bb.

Week 15:

Tuesday: **The Legislature and the Bureaucracy: Oversight** (Discussion)

Huber, John and Charles Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion?: The Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3-7.

Thursday: **The Legislature and the Bureaucracy: Methods of Oversight** (Discussion)

McCubbins, Matthew D., Noll, Roger G., and Weingast, Barry R. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations* 3(2): 243-277.

McCubbins, Matthew D. and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols vs. Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28(1): 165-179.

Week 16:

Tuesday: **Final Exam Review**