

PS 166: Comparative Constitutional Design

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Wainfan

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Lectures: T, Th 11:00 – 12:15,
Royce 362

Office Hours: T: 9:30 – 10:30;
Th: 1:00 – 2:00,
4250 Bunche

Political institutions create the “rules of the game” in democratic politics. While these rules can be set in many different ways, constitutions play a crucial role in determining who gets power and what they are able to do with it. In this course, we will systematically examine the role that political institutions play in government selection and decision-making in democratic countries throughout the world.

Learning Objectives

Students completing PS 166 will be expected to:

- Appreciate the scope of institutional design choices required in writing a democratic institution
- Understand the ways in which basic political institutions distribute or concentrate powers
- Understand the tradeoffs between different visions of democracy and place different political institutions within these visions
- Understand the role certain institutions can play in minimizing or exacerbating conflict or regime breakdown
- Evaluate the logic of causal arguments critically, and know what sorts of evidence and methods can be used to support such arguments

Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be determined by four components: in-class quizzes, an in-class midterm, a take-home midterm, and a final. All exams will be cumulative.

There will be seven short unannounced *quizzes* to test your understanding of the assigned reading. All readings up to and including those due on the date of the current lecture are fair game. The quizzes may be given at any point during the session, so do not assume that they will be at the beginning or end of class. Your final score will come from your top five quizzes. If you are absent for any reason you will receive a 0 for that quiz and it will become one of your dropped quizzes. *Because the lowest two scores will be dropped, make-up quizzes will only be permitted under extraordinary circumstances.*

An *in-class midterm* will take place on Tuesday, October 30. A *take-home midterm* will be distributed via the course website on Friday, November 16. It is designed to take three to four hours, assuming you have prepared beforehand. The exam is due to turnitin by Wednesday,

November 21 at 9am. You will lose 1% for each five minutes (or portion thereof) it is late, so I highly recommend you finish and turn in the exam early.

The *comprehensive final* will be held on Tuesday, December 12 from 3pm to 6pm, in a location to be announced.

Your overall grade will be calculated as follows:

- **Quizzes (Best 5/7):** 10%
- **In-Class Midterm:** 20%
- **Take-Home Midterm:** 30%
- **Final:** 40%

University and Course Policies

Any suspicion of academic dishonesty including plagiarism or cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students without exception. Please consult the university's [guide](#) on academic dishonesty and how to avoid it.

If you need special accommodations for lectures or exams, it is your responsibility to coordinate this with the Center for Accessible Education ([CAE](#)). *Please do this as soon as possible as it can take some time.*

Under [FERPA](#), you have a right to know how you're doing in the course, but *it is a violation of university policy to discuss grades or any private information via email*, because legally, email is not private communication. Any discussion of your performance in the course, including your grade, must take place in person.

Finally, please note that under University policy, all TAs and instructors are mandated Title IX reporters. If I am informed of or witness sexual violence or harassment, I am required to report this to UCLA's Title IX coordinator. The coordinator is committed to maintaining anonymity of victims and I am as well.

- If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, **(310) 206-2465**.
- You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, **(310) 206-3417**.
- Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at **(310) 825-1491**.

Resources Available

First, there is me. Please feel free to email me (kwainfan@ucla.edu), ask questions in class, and visit me in office hours (Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 and Thursdays 1:00-2:00). Interaction with curious students is one of the best parts of my job, so please don't be shy!

Check out the resources tab on the course website for links and documents.

Course Materials

The main text for the course will be *Patterns of Democracy* by Arend Lijphart, 2nd Edition (2012). All other course readings will be posted on the course website.

Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Make sure to check the syllabus on the course website regularly.

Readings should be completed before lecture on the appropriate day.

Wk	Day	Topic and Readings
0	Th 9/27	Course Intro <ul style="list-style-type: none">Raff, "How to Read and Understand a Scientific Article"
1	T 10/2 Th 10/4	What is Democracy? Why Might We Want it? [2+11+13 = 26] <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy is... and Is Not", <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, pgs 75-87Federalist 51Diamond, "Defining and Developing Democracy", DSB pgs 29-39 Democratic Transitions [30 + 29 = 59] <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grugel and Bishop 2013, <i>Democratization: A Critical Introduction</i>, ch 3 (pgs 74-104)Geddes 1999, "What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" <i>American Review of Political Science</i>, pgs 115-44
2	T 10/9	What Should a Constitution Do? [37 + 5 = 42] <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grimm 2012, "Types of Constitutions", <i>Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law</i>, pgs 98-121Federalist 10, DSB pgs 118-122

	Th 10/11	Competing Visions of Democracy [1+41+48 = 90] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burke 1774, “Speech to the Electors of Bristol” • Powell 2000, <i>Elections as Instruments of Democracy</i>, chs 1-2 (pgs 3-43) • Lijphart 2012, chs 1-3 (pgs 1-45)
3	T 10/16	Executive Structures: Presidential vs. Parliamentary [24+26 +35 = 85] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch. 7, pgs 105-129 • Shugart and Carey 1992, <i>Presidents and Assemblies</i>, ch 3, 7-8 (28-54, 131-166)
	Th 10/18	PvP con. And Semi-Presidentialism [20+46=66] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shugart and Carey 1992, ch 4 (pgs 55-75) • Samuels and Shugart 2010, <i>Presidents, Parties, and Prime Ministers</i>, chs 8 and 9 (pgs 218-264)
4	T 10/23	Government Formation [25+ 18 = 43] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch 6 (pgs 79-104) • Martin and Stevenson 2001, “Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, pgs 33-50
	Th 10/25	Coalitions and Governance [40 + 15 = 55] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laver and Shepsle 1994, <i>Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Government</i>, chs 1 and 17 (pgs 1-10, 285-309) • Martin and Vanberg 2004 “Policing the Bargain: Coalition Government and Parliamentary Scrutiny”, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, pgs 13-27
5	T 10/30	Midterm In Class
	Th 11/1	Electoral Systems [28 + 63 = 91] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch 8 (pgs 130 – 157) • CGG, <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>, ch 13 (pgs 535-597)
6	T 11/6	Electoral cycles, electioneering, and voting [47 + 23 = 70] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shugart and Carey 1992, chs 11-12 (pgs 226-272) • Carey and Shugart 1995, “Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote”, <i>Electoral Studies</i>, pgs 417-439

	Th 11/8	Devolution and Federalism [17 + 16 +15 = 48] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch 10 (pgs 174-186) • Stepan 1999, “Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the U.S. Model”, <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, pgs 19-34 • Bermeo 2002, “The Import of Institutions”, <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, pgs 96-110
7	T 11/13 Th 11/15 F 11/16	Bicameralism [18 + 20 = 38] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch 11 (pgs 187-204) • Heller and Branduse 2014, “The Politics of Bicameralism”, <i>Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies</i>, pgs 332-351 The Judiciary [21 + 16 + 31= 68] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart 2012, ch 12 (pgs 204-224) • <i>Federalist</i> 78, 80 (16 pgs) • Ferejohn, Rosenbluth, and Shipan 2009, “Comparative Judicial Politics”, <i>Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics</i>, pgs 727- 757 Take Home Midterm Posted, 12 noon
8	T 11/20 W 11/21 Th 11/22	No Class Meeting Take Home Midterm due 9am University Holiday, No Class Meeting
9	T 11/27 Th 11/29	Consociationalism in Practice [40 + 19 = 59] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liphart 2012, ch 15 & 16 (pgs 255 – 294) • Tilley, Evans, and Mitchell 2008, “Consociationalism and the Evolution of Political Cleavages in Northern Ireland, 1989-2004”, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, pgs 699-717 Direct Democracy [50 + 23 = 73] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cronin 1989, <i>Direct Democracy</i>, chs 3,8 (pgs 38-59, 196-222) • Leduc 2002, “Opinion Change and Voting Behaviour in Referendums” <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>, pgs 711-732

10	T 12/4	<p>Authoritarian Constitutions? [16 + 15 = 31]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thio, 2010 “Constitutionalism in Illiberal Polities” OHCCL, pgs 133-149 • Gandhi and Pzeworski 2007, “Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats” <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, pgs 1279 – 1293) • Others TBD
	Th 12/6	<p>International Institutions: The EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Finals	T 12/11	Final 3pm to 6pm