UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
CPO 4754-0001: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
Spring 2012

Professor: Myunghee Kim	Office: PH311f
Class: MWF 2:30 – 3:20 pm	Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 2:10 pm
Credit hours: 3	MW 3:40 – 4:30pm
Class Room:CL1 103	(or by appointment)
E-mail: Myunghee.kim@ucf.edu	Office Phone: x36247

CPO 4754, Comparative Political Institutions, analyzes major types of political institutions from a comparative perspective. Political institutions include, but not limited to, electoral laws, division of power, types of democracy, and federalism. Three main objectives are: 1) understandings of fundamental concepts in comparative politics as well as institutional designs; 2) comparisons of the major aspects of democratic institutions and institutional changes; 3) institutional performance and interaction with private sectors as well as the public, i.e., responsiveness and collective representation.

REQUIREMENTS

Readings

Lijphart, Arend. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999.

All other reserved readings, articles, and chapters of various books are listed from page 4 to 5 in this syllabus.

Examinations

Four examinations are required for this class. Three examinations are **20** percent (each) and the final examination is **25** percent of your total grade. Three examinations will be held on February 13, March 19, and April 11 during the class, and the final examination will follow the University schedule (http://www.registrar.sdes.ucf.edu/calendar/exam/). The details on examinations will be discussed in class. Without instructor's prior permission to a specific student, there will be no make-up examinations.

Quiz/Assignment

Homework assignments for information/data gathering or quizzes will be given during classes. Five percent of the total grade is assigned for the miscellaneous assignments. Late submission will be subjected to be one grade lower for each class day.

Attendance

Students in this course are required to be present in the class. In each class, participants have to follow the readings to contribute group discussion and debates as well as to submit the assignments. Attendance consists of **10** percent of your total grade. The 10 percent is divided by the number of total classes during the semester, thereby equally weighing each class. If a student has to be absent a class, it is the person's responsibility to provide an appropriate (official) document. Without official documents, the absence will be deducted from your grade.

FINAL GRADE

In sum, your grade will be determined by:

midterm exams 60% (each 20%),
final exam 25%,
participation/attendance 10%,
quiz/assignment 5%

100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; lower than 60 F

POLICIES

- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Any disruptive and disrespectful behavior to me and to other participants will result in an F. Be professional, courteous and sensitive to the rights of others.
- Raise your hand and ask to be recognized. Do not interrupt.
- Late submissions are discouraged. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by a deduction of one letter grade, and the deduction is cumulated by each class day. No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- Plagiarism, the purposeful or *accidental* use of source material by other writers without giving appropriate credit, is a crime! If any indication of plagiarism is shown in a participant's assignment, the participant will receive an F for the assignment.
- No extra credit assignments will be permitted.
- Do not miss quizzes and exams. Without instructor's prior permission to a specific student and without official documents, there will be no make-up examinations.
- You will not be permitted to take the exam if you arrive more than fifteen minutes after the beginning of an exam or after the first student has finished.
- Do not miss documentaries. I do not lend documentaries to a student.
- Homework assignment or paper as a form of e-mail attachment is not accepted.
- Homework, if it is given, should be type-written and stapled.
- Do not be late for class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- If you need to leave earlier, inform me at the beginning of the class. Otherwise, it will be regarded as absence.
- Tape recording and videotaping are NOT allowed without instructor's permission in advance.
- Turn off your cell phone, blackberries, and other electronic devices (including headsets and i-pod). You are NOT allowed to answer your phone calls or to send text messages during the class meeting time.
- Laptop computer is not allowed.
- I often communicate via e-mail, e.g., changes of schedule, announcement, etc. Thus, pay attention to the e-mail messages from me. It is your responsibility to manage your e-mail account. I do not have an obligation to respond to any "non-knight" e-mails.
- An individual who is not enrolled in this course is not allowed to be in the classroom during the class time.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus in the course of the semester/session.

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations (Please notify me no later than the end of the first week of class concerning any academic accommodations you will need). No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Theme	Reading	Note
Week 1	January 9, 11, 13	Introduction, Analyzing Politics	- King, Gary, Robert R. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994. Ch. 1 "The *Science* in Social Science" (pp. 3-33).	
Week 2	January 18, 20	Analyzing Politics, What are Political Institutions?	- March, James, and Johan Olsen. "Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions." *Governance* 9, 3 (1996): 247-64. - Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Boncheck. Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions. New York: W. W. Norton, 1997. Ch. 11 "Institutions: General Remarks" (pp. 299-311) - Lijphart, Ch1. "Introduction" (pp. 1-8)	
Week 3	January 23, 25, 27	Two Models of Democracy: Westminster Model	- Lijphart, Ch. 2 "The Westminster Model of Democracy" (pp. 9-30)	
Week 4	January 30, February 1, 3	Two Models of Democracy: Consensus Model	- Lijphart, Ch. 3 "The Consensus Model of Democracy (pp. 31-47)	
Week 5	February 6, 8, 10	Two Models of Democracy: Country Examples	- Lijphart, Ch. 4 "Thirty-Six Democracies" (pp. 48-61)	
Week 6	February 13, 15, 17	Electoral Systems	- Lijphart, Ch. 8 "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods, Versus Proportional Representation" (pp. 143-170)	February 13: Exam I
Week 7	February 20, 22, 24	Party Systems	- Lijphart, Ch. 5 "Party Systems: Two-Party and Multiparty Patterns" (pp. 62-89)	

Week	Date	Theme	Reading	Note
Week 8	February 27, 29, March 2	Interest Groups	- Lijphart, Ch. 9 “Interest Groups: Pluralism Versus Corporatism” (pp. 171-184)	
Week 9	March 12, 14, 16	Cabinets	- Lijphart, Ch. 6 “Cabinets: Concentration Versus Sharing of Executive Power” (pp. 90-115)	
Week 10	March 19, 21, 23	Balance of Power	- Lijphart, Ch. 7 “Executive-Legislative Relations: Patterns of Dominance and Balance of Power” (pp. 116-142)	March 19: Exam 2
Week 11	March 26, 28, 30	Concentration of Power	- Lijphart, Ch. 10 “Division of Power: The Federal-Unitary and Centralized-Decentralized Contrasts” (pp. 185-199) - Lijphart, Ch. 11 “Parliaments and Congresses: Concentration Versus Division of Legislative Power” (pp. 200-215)	
Week 12	April 2, 4, 6	Judicial Review	- Lijphart, Ch. 12 “Constitutions: Amendment Procedures and Judicial Review” (pp. 216-231)	
Week 13	April 9, 11, 13	Performance of Democracy	- Lijphart, Ch. 15, “Macro-Economic Management and the Control of Violence: Does Consensus Democracy Make a Difference?” (pp. 258-274)	April 11: Exam 3
Week 14	April 16, 18, 20	Quality of Democracy	- Lijphart, Ch. 16, “The Quality of Democracy and a “Kinder, Gentler” Democracy: Consensus Democr4acy Makes a Difference” (pp. 275-300)	
Week 15	April 23	Wrap up	- Lijphart, Ch. 17 “Conclusion and Recommendations” (pp. 301-310)	
Week 16	April 25, 1:00-3:50 pm	Final Examination	Good Luck!	