UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
CPO 4754-0001: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
SPRING 2018

Professor: Myunghee Kim
Class: MWF 2:30 – 3:20 pm
Credit hours: 3
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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*. 2nd Edition. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2012 (ISBN: 9780300172027).

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. The midterm examination is **20** percent each and the final examination is **25** percent of your total grade. Three examinations will be held on February 9, March 23, and April 11 during the class, and the final examination will follow the University schedule (https://exams.sdes.ucf.edu/2018/spring). 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.

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 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 (hardcopy). 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

FINANCIAL AID

As of Spring 2018, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than January 12. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

(These activities must be completed by students: e.g., studying quiz, attendance, following the readings based on our schedule on this syllabus.)

COURSE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable (Please notify me no later than the end of the first week of class concerning any academic accommodations you will need).

POLICIES

- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Any disruptive and disrespectful behavior to me and to other participants will result in an F or administrative withdrawal. Be professional, courteous and sensitive to the rights of others.
- Turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices (including headsets, i-pod, and Apple watch). You are NOT allowed to answer your phone calls or to send text messages during the class meeting time. Do not put any electronic devices on your desk or chair.
- 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 can be regarded as absence.
- Tape recording and videotaping are NOT allowed without instructor's permission in advance.
- 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.
- Students who add this class later have a full responsibility to catch up with materials and announcement that they missed.
- 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Theme	Reading	Note
Week 1	January 8	Introduction,	- Review syllabus	
Week 2	January 10, 12	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 3	January 17, 19	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 4	January 22, 24, 26	Two Models of Democracy: Westminster Model	- Lijphart, Ch. 2 "The Westminster Model of Democracy" (pp. 9-29)	
Week 5	January 29, 31, February 2	Two Models of Democracy: Consensus Model	- Lijphart, Ch. 3 "The Consensus Model of Democracy (pp. 30-45)	
Week 6	February 5, 7, 9	Two Models of Democracy: Country Examples	- Lijphart, Ch. 4 "Thirty-Six Democracies" (pp. 46-59)	February 9: Exam I
Week 7	February 12, 14, 16	Electoral Systems	- Lijphart, Ch. 8 "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods, Versus Proportional Representation" (pp. 130-157)	
Weeks 8	February 19, 21, 23	Party Systems	- Lijphart, Ch. 5 "Party Systems: Two-Party and Multiparty Patterns" (pp. 60-78)	

Week	Date	Theme	Reading	Note
Week 9	February 26, 28, March 2	Interest Groups	- Lijphart, Ch. 9 “Interest Groups: Pluralism Versus Corporatism” (pp. 158-173)	
Week 10	March 5, 7, 9	Cabinets	- Lijphart, Ch. 6 “Cabinets: Concentration Versus Sharing of Executive Power” (pp. 79-104)	
Week 11	March 19, 21, 23	Balance of Power	- Lijphart, Ch. 7 “Executive-Legislative Relations: Patterns of Dominance and Balance of Power” (pp. 105-129)	March 23: Exam II
Week 12	March 26, 28, 30	Concentration of Power	- Lijphart, Ch. 10 “Division of Power: The Federal-Unitary and Centralized-Decentralized Contrasts” (pp. 174-186) - Lijphart, Ch. 11 “Parliaments and Congresses: Concentration Versus Division of Legislative Power” (pp. 187-203)	
Week 13	April 2, 4, 6	Judicial Review	- Lijphart, Ch. 12 “Constitutions: Amendment Procedures and Judicial Review” (pp. 204-225)	
Week 14	April 9, 11, 13	Performance of Democracy, Quality of Democracy	- Lijphart, Ch. 15, “Effective Government and Policy-Making: Does Consensus Democracy Make a Difference?” (pp. 255-273) - Lijphart, Ch. 16, “The Quality of Democracy and a “Kinder, Gentler” Democracy: Consensus Democr4acy Makes a Difference” (pp. 274-294)	April 13: Exam III
Week 15	April 16, 18, 20, 23	Wrap up	- Lijphart, Ch. 17 “Conclusion and Recommendations” (pp. 295-303)	
Week 16	April 25, 1:00 -3:50 pm	Final Examination	Good Luck!	