

Comparative Political Institutions and Institutional Development

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Course Description

This course presents a broad in-depth overview of the state of the art in comparative politics, with special attention to institutions. The focus is on themes, not on specific geographic areas. The course materials combine some more dated classics and recent and provocative contributions, with a preference for articles that can provide evidence of causal relationships.

The course is organized in sections, each of them containing several lectures. Each lecture revolves around one or two papers, which are going to be dissected in detail, in order to understand the mechanics and the logic of the model (for theoretical contributions) and the data and empirical strategy (for empirical contributions). In order to fully understand the lectures, and to productively contribute to class discussion, students are encouraged to read the assigned materials before the class meeting in which they are going to be presented and discussed.

Honor Code

Università Bocconi conceives of education as an ongoing process that stretches across a person's entire professional life. The University hopes that the entire Bocconi community will respect the values of fairness and correctness associated with it, values which inspire and guide the conduct of all community members as they pursue common objectives and a shared mission. The Università Bocconi Honor Code is published at <http://www.unibocconi.eu/honorcode>. We encourage all students to read it. We remind you that improper use of the "Attendance" recording procedure by students will result in sanctions in compliance with the Bocconi Honor Code.

Evaluation

There is a first mid-term exam, covering the first half of the course, and a second midterm exam, covering only the second half of the course. Each of the partial exams is worth 50% of the grade. For those unable or unwilling to take the midtem exam, the midterm and the non-cumulative final exam are replaced by a final exam (worth 100% of the grade) covering the entire course content. Students who have NOT passed the exam yet for the previous year have to prepare the current program. For information please contact prof. Invernizzi.

Plan of the Course

Introduction

1. Sept 6: Course presentation; the *science* in political science
 - Shepsle, Kenneth A. *Analyzing politics: rationality, behavior, and institutions*. WW Norton, 2010. Chapters 1 and 2.

Elections and Electoral Systems

1. Sept 8: Spatial models of politics
 - Gelbach, Formal Models of Domestic Politics, Chapters 1 and 2.
 - Calvert, Randall 1985. "Robustness of the Multidimensional Voting Model: Candidate Motivations, Uncertainty, and Convergence." *American Journal of Political Science* 29 (1):69-95.
2. Sept 13: PR vs majoritarian (logic and adoption)
 - Huber, John D., and G. Bingham Powell, Jr. 1994. "Congruence Between Citizens and Policymakers in Two Visions of Liberal Democracy." *World Politics* 46(3):291-326.
 - Benoit, K., 2004. "Models of electoral system change." *Electoral Studies* 23(3): 363-389.

- Boix, Charles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93(3): 609-624.

3. Sept 15: Strategic voting

- Cox, Gary W. 1997. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 4 and 5.

Political Parties

1. Sept 20: Why parties?

- Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why parties?: The origin and transformation of political parties in America*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2.
- Levy, Gilat. 2004. "A model of political parties." *Journal of Economic Theory*. 115(2): 250-277.

2. Sept 22: The role of intra-party factions and party organization

- Caillaud, Bernard, and Jean Tirole. 2002. "Parties as political intermediaries." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 117(4): 1453-1489.
- Invernizzi, Giovanna Maria. 2022. "Antagonistic Cooperation: Factional Competition in the Shadow of Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. Early View.

3. Sept 27: Electoral institutions and party system change

- Morelli, Massimo. 2004. "Party Formation and Policy Outcomes under Different Electoral Systems." *Review of Economic Studies*. 71(3): 829-853.
- Ordeshook, Peter, and Olga Shvetsova. 1994. "Ethnic Heterogeneity, District Magnitude and the Number of Parties." *American Political Science Review* 38(1): 100-123.

Types of Executives and Delegation of Policymaking

1. Sept 29: Political agency models

- Besley, Timothy. *Principled agents?: The political economy of good government*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3.
2. Oct 4: Pandering model; presidential vs parliamentary systems
 - Canes-Wrone, Brandice, Michael C. Herron, and Kenneth W. Shotts. 2001. "Leadership and pandering: A theory of executive policymaking." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45(3): 532-550.
 3. Oct 6: politicians and bureaucrats: delegation to bureaucrats
 - Huber, John, and Nolan McCarty, 2004. "Bureaucratic capacity, delegation, and political reform." *American Political Science Review* 98(3): 481-494.
 4. Oct 11: politicians and bureaucrats: political monitoring
 - (a) Gulzar, S. and Pasquale, B.J., 2017. "Politicians, bureaucrats, and development: Evidence from India." *American Political Science Review* 111(1): 162-183.

Wrapping up

1. Oct 13: Recap session
2. Oct 19: **First Midterm Exam**