

POLI 7971: Comparative Legislatures
Thursdays: 2:00 – 4:50pm
Location: 210 Stubbs

Professor: Dr. Yann Kerevel
Office: 230 Stubbs

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm or by appt.
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Overview

The study of legislative institutions has been dominated by research on the U.S. Congress. Despite this singular focus, the design of legislatures, their organization, their relations with other branches of government, the methods by which legislative representatives reach office, and the way in which representatives serve their constituents vary widely across countries. This course is designed to introduce students to research on legislatures across the globe.

Required Readings

Most readings are peer-reviewed journal articles easily found through the LSU library system or Google Scholar. Any book chapters will be provided in PDF format on Moodle.

Evaluation

: 20%

Each week in which there are assigned readings, I expect students to write a 2- 3 page critical review of the week's readings. In your review, you should address at least some of the questions listed below. In addition to writing the 2-page review, I also expect students to submit at least 3 questions related to the readings for discussion. The writing assignment and the 3 questions are due by 12pm on the day of class and should be submitted electronically by email. To receive full credit for these assignments, they must all be turned in on time, they must meet the basic requirements, and it must be clear to me you have read all of the week's material. I will not be providing weekly, individual feedback on these assignments but I will reach out to individual students early in the semester with comments.

1. What is the research question and why is it important?
2. What is the authors' theory (if there is one)?
3. How do the authors test the theory (i.e. what methods and data do they use?)
4. What are the authors' primary findings?

: 50%

Each student is required to write a 20-25 empirical research paper of publishable quality related to the study of legislatures. Students are expected to submit a research proposal, a literature review, a rough draft, and a final draft. In addition, students will present their research on the final day of class. Students are also expected to meet individually with the professor as necessary as they develop their research paper. Below are the basic expectations of each component but further guidance will be provided throughout the course.

- ! *Research Proposal:* A brief 2-3 page proposal is due electronically on February 23rd. At a minimum, the proposal should include a research question, a b

documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225)578-5919.

General Statement on Academic Integrity: Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method: As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation methods for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct.

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Chernykh, S., Doyle, D. and Power, T. J. (2017), Measuring Legislative Power: An Expert

Cunow, S., Ames, B., Desposato, S. and Renno, L. 2012. "Reelection and Legislative Power: Surprising Results from Brazil." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 37: 533–558.

Kernecker, T. (2016), Political Ambition in 14 Presidential Democracies. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 41: 393–417.

February 23: Individual research proposals are due electronically by 11:59pm.

March 1: Party Switching

Zielinski, Jakub, Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, and Goldie Shabad. 2005. "Electoral Control in New Democracies: The Perverse Incentives of Fluid Party Systems." *World Politics* 57(3): 365-395.

Heller, William B., and Carol Mershon. 2005. "Party Switching in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, 1996-2001." *The Journal of Politics* 67(2): 536-59.

Desposato, Scott W. 2006. "Parties for Rent? Ambition, Ideology, and Party Switching in Brazil's Chamber of Deputies." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 62-80.

O'Brien, Diana Z., and Yael Shomer. 2013. "A Cross-National Analysis of Party Switching." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38(1): 111-141.

Mershon, Carol, and Olga Shvetsova. 2013. "The Microfoundations of Party System Stability in Legislatures." *The Journal of Politics* 75(4): 865-878.

Kerevel, Yann P. 2017. "The Costs and Benefits of Party Switching in Mexico." *Latin American Politics & Society* 59(1): 28

Robinson Preece, Jessica. 2014. "How the Party Can Win in Personal Vote Systems: The "Selector Connection" and Legislative Voting in Lithuania." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 39(2): 147-167.

Shomer, Y. (2017), The Conditional Effect of Electoral Systems and Intraparty Candidate Selection Processes on Parties' Behavior. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 42: 63–96.

March 15: Executive-Legislative Relations

Raile, E. D., Pereira, C., & Power, T. J. 2011. "The executive toolbox: Building legislative support in a multiparty presidential regime." *Political Research Quarterly* 64: 323-334.

Saiegh, S.M., 2009. "Political prowess or "Lady Luck"? Evaluating chief executives' legislative success rates." *The Journal of Politics* 71(04): 1342-1356.

Alemán, Eduardo, and Ernesto Calvo. 2010. "Unified

