

**POLI 7971: Comparative Legislatures**  
**Thursdays: 3:00 – 5:50pm**  
**Location: 210 Stubbs**

**Professor:** Dr. Yann Kerevel  
**Office:** Stubbs 230

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30pm 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**

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- ! Research Proposal: A brief 2-3 page proposal is due electronically on February 18<sup>th</sup>. As a minimum, the proposal should include a research question, a discussion that places the research question within the context of the larger literature, a brief discussion of how the question will be answered, and a reference list of relevant literature.
- ! Literature Review: By March 17<sup>th</sup>, students must submit a 10 page review of the literature relevant to their research question. The literature review may be written as a stand alone assignment, or the beginning of a rough draft of the final research paper. The literature review is due in class.
- ! Rough Draft: On April 7<sup>th</sup>, students must submit a rough draft of their final paper. Rough drafts should include everything except empirical results

**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. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats.

### **Schedule of Readings**



Pekkanen, R., B. Nyblade, and E. S. Krauss. 2006. "Electoral Incentives in Mixed-Member Systems: Party, Posts, and Zombie Politicians in Japan." *American Political Science Review* 100 (2): 183-93.

Thames, F.C., 2005. A house divided: party strength and the mandate divide in Hungary, Russia, and Ukraine. *Comparative Political Studies* 38 (3), 282-303.

Crisp, B. F. 2007. "Incentives in mixed-member electoral systems: general election laws, candidate selection procedures, and cameral rules." *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (12), 1460-85.

### **March 10: Candidate Selection Methods**

Hazan, R.Y. and Rahat, G., 2006. "The influence of candidate selection methods on legislatures and legislators: Theoretical propositions, methodological suggestions and empirical evidence." *The Journal of Legislative Studies* 12(3-4): 366-385.

De Luca, M., Jones, M. P., & Tula, M. I. 2002. "Back rooms or ballot boxes? Candidate nomination in Argentina." *Comparative Political Studies* 35: 413-436.

Hix, S., 2004. "Electoral institutions and legislative behavior: Explaining voting defection in the European Parliament." *World Politics* 56(02): 194-223.

Shomer, Y., 2009. "Candidate Selection Procedures, Seniority, and Vote-Seeking Behavior." *Comparative Political Studies* 42(7): 945-970.

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

### **March 17: Executive-Legislative Relations (lit review due)**

Raile, E. D., Pereira, C., & Power, T. J. 2011. "The executive toolbox: Building legislative support in a multiparty presidential regime." *Political Research Quarterly* 74: 323-334.

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

Alemán, Eduardo, and Ernesto Calvo. 2010. "Unified Government, Bill Approval, and the Legislative Weight of the President." *Comparative Political Studies* 43: 511-534.

Martin, L. W. and Vanberg, G. 2014. "Parties and Policymaking in Multiparty Governments: The Legislative Median, Ministerial Autonomy, and the Coalition Compromise." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 979-996.

### **March 24: (no class, spring break)**

### **March 31: Agenda-Setting**

Amorim Neto, Octavio, Gary Cox, and Matthew McCubbins. 2003. "Agenda Power in Brazil's Camara dos Deputados, 1989-98." *World Politics* 55 (July): 550-78.

Jones, M.P. and Hwang, W. 2005. "Party government in presidential democracies: Extending Cartel theory beyond the US Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (2): 267-282.

Calvo, E., & Sagarzazu, I. 2011. "Legislator success in committee: Gatekeeping authority and the loss of majority control." *American Journal of Political Science* 65 (1), 1-15.

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