

**POLI 7972: Comparative Political Institutions**  
**Tuesdays: 3:00 – 5:50pm**  
**Location: 210 Stubbs**

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

**Office Hours:** W/Th: 1:30-2:30pm  
**Email:** ykerev1@lsu.edu

**Overview**

This course will introduce you to the comparative study of political institutions, which includes the study of formal rules and organizations. We will cover political party systems, electoral rules, the differences between presidentialism and parliamentarism, institutional rules to enhance descriptive representation, judicial institutions and electoral management bodies.

**Required Texts (available electronically through LSU)**

Cheibub, José Antonio. 2006. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521542449

Chhibber, Pradeep, and Ken Kollman. 2004.

*Presidentialism and Democracy in Africa*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691119328

Eisenstadt, Todd A. 2007. *The Invention of Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521035880

Samuels, David J., and Matthew S. Shugart. 2010. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0521689687

**Evaluation**

***Weekly writing assignments and discussion questions: 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, with an emphasis on question #6. In addition to writing the 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 1pm on the day of class and should be submitted electronically by email.

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?
5. What are the authors' main conclusions and what are their implications?
6. What are your criticisms of the research?

***Class Participation: 20%***

I expect all students to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings and contribute to class discussion. Attendance is not optional and each unexcused absence will result in the loss of one whole letter grade. Students with an excused absence must write a 10-page literature review of the week's readings plus additional recommended readings on the same topic.

***Hypothesis Test: 15%***

You are to write a 2-3 page paper that provides a simple test of a hypothesis related to the effective number of political parties. You must also present your findings in class on February 21<sup>st</sup>. More details will be provided in class.

***Attendance and Late Assignments:*** Attendance for all class sessions is mandatory and as a rule I do not accept late assignments. I will subtract one whole letter grade for each missed class and for each late assignment.

### **Other Policies**

***Students requiring special accommodation:*** Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a 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](http://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. 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.

I will report all instances of plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing you may fail the assignment, fail the course and/or be asked to leave the graduate program.

### **Schedule of Required Readings**

#### **Week 1: January 17 (first class) Do Institutions Matter?**

Lijphart, Arend. 2012. . New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1, 15, 16. ( ).

Anderson, Liam. 2001. "The Implications of Institutional Design for Macroeconomic Performance: Reassessing the Claims of Consensus Democracy." 34(4): 429-52.

Scott Gates, Benjamin A. T. Graham, Yonatan Lupu, Håvard Strand, and Kaare W. Strøm,  
"Power Sharing, Protection, and Peace," *Journal of Democracy*, 78, no. 2 (April 2016): 512-526

Doyle, D., 2011. The Legitimacy of Political Institutions: Explaining Contemporary Populism in Latin America. *Journal of Democracy*, 44(11), pp.1447-1473.

**Week 2: January 24 Origins of Party Systems 1**

Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1990 [1967]. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *Party Systems and Voter Alignments*, ed. P. Mair. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Torcal, Mariano, and Scott Mainwaring. 2003. "The Political Recrafting

### **Week 5: February 14 Consequences of Electoral Rules**

Ferrara, Federico & Erik S. Herron. 2005. "Going It Alone? Strategic Entry under Mixed Electoral Rules." *Journal of Democracy*, 49: 16–31.

Crisp, Brian F., Maria C. Escobar-Lemmon, Bradford S. Jones, Mark P. Jones, and Michelle M. Taylor-Robinson. 2004. "Vote-seeking Incentives and Legislative Representation in Six Presidential Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, 66 (3): 823-846.

Kedar, O., Harsgor, L. and Sheinerman, R. A. (2016), Are Voters Equal under Proportional Representation? *Journal of Democracy*, 60: 676–691

Carey, J. M. and Hix, S. (2011), The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems. *Journal of Democracy*, 55: 383–397.

Gary W. Cox, Jon H. Fiva, and Daniel M. Smith, "The Contraction Effect: How Proportional Representation Affects Mobilization and Turnout," *Journal of Democracy*, 78, no. 4 (October 2016): 1249-1263.

### **Week 6: February 21 Counting Parties Presentations**

Molinar, J., 1991. Counting the Number of Parties: An Alternative Index. *Journal of Democracy*, (04), pp.1383-1391.

Golosov, G.V., 2010. The Effective Number of Parties A New Approach. *Journal of Democracy*, (2), pp.171-192.

Laakso, M. and Taagepera, R., 1979. The "Effective" Number of Parties: A Measure with Application to West Europe". *Journal of Democracy*, (1), p.3-27.

### **Week 7: February 28 (no class, Mardi Gras)**

### **Week 8: March 7 Presidentialism v Parliamentarism 1**

Cheibub, José Antonio. 2006. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **March 9<sup>th</sup>: Research proposal due**

### **Week 9: March 14 Presidentialism & Parliamentarism**

Samuels, David J., and Matthew S. Shugart. 2010. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **Week 10: March 21 Descriptive Representation 1**

Hughes, Melanie M. 2011. "Intersectionality, Quotas, and Minority Women's Political Representation Worldwide." 105(3): 604-620.

Bhavnani, Rikhil R. 2009. Do electoral quotas work after they are withdrawn? Evidence from a natural experiment in India. 103(1): 23-35.

O'Brien, Diana Z., and Johanna Rickne. 2016. "Gender Quotas and Women's Political Leadership." 110(1): 112-126.

Roberts, A., Seawright, J. and Cyr, J.M., 2013. Do Electoral Laws Affect Women's Representation?. , 46(12), pp.1555-1581.

**March 23: Lit Review Due**

**Week 11: March 28 Descriptive Representation 2**

Crisp, B.F., Demirkaya, B., Schwindt-Bayer, L.A. and Millian, C., 2016. The Role of Rules in

Hartlyn, Jonathan, Jennifer McCoy, and Thomas M. Mustillo. 2008. "Electoral Governance Matters: Explai