

**Problems in Comparative Politics:  
Discipline, Strategy and Power - Legislative Politics Around the Globe  
30:149**

**Political Science 149  
University of Iowa • Spring 2010  
1:05P - 2:20P T Th • 71 SH**

Instructor: Zachary D. Greene  
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Office: 313 Schaeffer Hall  
Office Hours: T Th: 2:30 - 4:00PM, and by appointment

**Course Description:**

Although often maligned for their inactivity and pork barrel projects, elected legislatures play an important role in representative democracy, influencing numerous outcomes from the political process. Indeed, most conceptions of modern representative democracy necessitate a popularly elected legislature. Despite their importance for democratic theory, the general public and popular media tend to misunderstand legislatures focusing on their inefficiencies and excesses rather than their important functions in both determining and constraining governmental powers. In this course, we will focus on the sources and outputs of legislative power.

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize the student with broader concepts and trends that scholars use to analyze legislatures from a comparative perspective across countries and over time, with a particular focus on the degree and division of legislative powers cross-nationally. To accomplish this goal, we will investigate the historical and institutional features of legislatures that structure legislative decision-making cross-nationally.

**Evaluation**

Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%
Research paper	25%
Participation	10%
Quizzes	5%

**Classroom Policies and procedures**

- **E-mail:** The best way to reach me is by e-mail. I will do my best to get you a reply as soon as possible. Please do not wait until the night before an exam to e-mail me with a question. I will not respond to any exam-related e-mails the day of the exam. When sending me an e-mail, include your full name. No grades will be given out or discussed over e-mail. There will be no exceptions to this rule. If you have a question about your grade, please make an appointment to meet with me during office hours.

- Leaving Early: If you must leave class early for any reason, please notify me of this in advance so as to avoid disrupting the class.
- Students with Disabilities: I need to hear from anyone who has a disability that will require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please contact me after class or during my office hours as soon as possible.

### **Important Info & Policies**

- In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and **not** the day the assignment is due or afterwards. We will work together to come up with a solution.
- All assignments are due at the **beginning** of class. Assignments turned in more than 5 minutes after the start of class are considered late. A late assignment will be penalized 5 points for each day it is late. **After 3 days**, I will no longer accept it.
- Grade appeals must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade different than what you received.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to add your name to the attendance sheet at the end of class or it will count as an absence. If you are absent from section you are still responsible for the material covered in class, changes to the syllabus and submitting assignments by their deadline. You are allowed **three** unexcused absences after which each additional absence will result in the loss of one point out of the possible ten from your participation and quiz grade in the class. Only university approved absences will be excused and documentation is required. Car problems, printer problems and the like are **not** university excused absences

### **Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your involvement in class. Participation consists of actively being involved in discussion and answering questions raised by the instructor and other students on a regular basis. I expect discussion to be thoughtful and respectful of every student at all times. This includes being tolerant of the viewpoints expressed by your classmates.

\*\*\*PARTICIPATION POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR.

Such behavior includes reading newspapers, working on assignments for other classes, sleeping, holding side conversations with your neighbor, etc. Importantly, I do not want to see or hear your cell phone/pager etc, this includes text messaging. Repeated violation of this will result in the loss of points, if you are using your cell phone, you are not participating in class. If you anticipate an emergency that necessitates use of your phone during class, please let me know before class begins. Also, laptops and personal electronic devices will not be allowed during classes dedicated to discussion, without a written statement from student disabilities services.

### **Quizzes**

Five unannounced quizzes will be given in discussion section during the semester. I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. Quizzes may cover a variety of materials including, previous discussion content, textbook or other readings.

\*\*\*Quizzes can only be made up if the student contacts the instructor prior to the start of class explaining the reason for the absence and later provides the appropriate university approved documentation. Quizzes can only be made up for university approved absences. Quizzes must be made up within one week of the absence.

### **Research Paper**

The research component of this course will require you to write 10-12 page double spaced, paper. The paper will be comparative in nature, requiring you to make directed comparisons between two or more legislatures. The research assignment is due **April 27**, at the beginning of class.

### **Course Readings**

- Mezey, Michael. 2008. *Representative Democracy: Representatives and their Constituencies*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- **BFK** -Bowler, Farrell and Katz. 1999. *Party Discipline and Parliamentary Government*. Ohio State University Press.

\*\*\*Books are available at Iowa Book - 8 South Clinton Street (across the street from Schaeffer Hall). Also, a number of used copies are available online at amazon.com.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

### ***Week 1 – (Jan. 19 & 21) -What are legislatures? What is their role in democratic theory?***

Jan 19 – No Class!

Jan. 21 – Arter, David. 2006. “Introduction: Comparing the Legislative Performance of Legislatures.” *JoLS* 12, 3:245- 257

Mezey Chapter 1

### ***Week 2 (Jan 26 & 28) – Traditional Approaches to the study of legislatures?***

Jan 26- Mezey Chapter 2

Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy*. Chapters 1-2 - [ICON]

Jan 28 - Marongiu – *Medieval Parliaments* – [ICON]

### ***Week 3 (Feb. 2 & 4) – Presidential versus Parliamentary Systems: Is one better?***

Feb. 2 - Linz, Juan. 1990. “The Virtues of Parliamentarism” *Journal of Democracy* 1.1.

Linz, Juan. 1990. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” *Journal of Democracy* 1.1.

Feb. 4 - Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Shugart. 1997. “Juan Linz, Presidentialism and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal.” *Comparative Politics*. 29(4):449-7

“Still on a Roll: South Africa’s President.” *The Economist* September 26, 2009 – [ICON]

### ***Week 4 (Feb. 9 & 11) – Presidential Agenda Setting Powers: Do President’s matter?***

Feb. 9 - Tsebelis, George and Eduardo Aleman. 2005. “Presidential Conditional Agenda Setting in Latin America.” *World Politics*. 57: 396-420.

Feb. 11 - Alenka Krašovec and Damjan Lajh . 2009. “Slovenia: weak formal position, strong informal influence?” in *Semi-Presidentialism in Central and Eastern Europe* by Elgie and Moestup, eds. – [ICON]

### ***Week 5 (Feb. 16 & 18) –Parliaments: Party Discipline and Power***

Feb 16 - Longley, Lawrenc and Reuven Hazan. 1999. “On the Uneasy, Delicate, Yet Necessary Relationships Between Parliamentary Members and Leaders.” *JoLS* 5: 3, 1-22.

Bowler, Farrell and Katz – Chapter 1 -“Party Cohesion, Party Discipline, and Parliaments” - **BFK**

Feb 18 - “Coalition Discipline, Enforcement Mechanisms, and Intraparty Politics.” – **BFK**

***Week 6 (Feb. 23 & 25) - Party government and agenda setting***

Feb. 23 - Laver and Shepsle. “How Political Parties Emerged from the Primeval Slime: Party Cohesion, Party Discipline, and the Formation of Governments” p.23- **BFK**

Feb. 25 - “Cohesion of Party Groups and Interparty Conflict in the Swiss Parliament: Roll Call Voting in the National Council” – **BFK**

“Parliamentary Discipline in Spain.” – **BFK**

***Week 7 (Mar. 2 & 4) - Coalition Politics***

Mar. 2 - Muller and Strom. “The Keys to Togetherness: Coalition Agreements in Parliamentary Democracies.” *JoLS* 1999 5: 3, 255 - 282.

Laver, Michael. 1999. “Divided Parties, Divided Government.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 24, 1:5-29

Mar. 4 - “The Costs of Coalition: A Five Nation Comparison.” –**BFK**

“The BHV Question; Belgium’s governmentlessness” *The Economist* Nov. 10 2007 – **[ICON]**

***Week 8 (Mar 9 & 11) Coalition Politics Continued - & Midterm!!!***

Mar. 9 - Heller, William B. 2002. “Regional Parties and National Politics in Europe.” *Comparative Political Studies* 35, 6: 657-685.

Mar. 11 – Midterm

***Mar 16 & 18 – Spring Break***

***Week 9 (Mar. 23 & 25) – Legislative Rules and Agenda Setting.***

Mar. 23 - “Electoral Systems, Parliamentary Committees, and Party Discipline: The Norwegian Storting in a Comparative Perspective.” -**BFK**

Cox – “On the effects of Legislative Rules” 247-268. – **[ICON]**

Mar 25 – Huber. 1992. “Restrictive Legislative procedures in France and the United States.” *American Political Science Review* 86, 3: 675- 687

***Week 10 (Mar. 30 & April 1) – Elections and Party discipline***

Mar. 30 - Mezey Chapter 3

“Discipline in the British Conservative Party: The Attitudes of Party Activists toward the Role of Their Members in Parliament.”-**BFK**

Apr 1 - “The Parliamentarization of the East Central European Parties: Party Discipline in the Hungarian Parliament, 1990-96” – **BFK**

***Week 11 (Apr 6 & 8) Election type- Do elections matter for legislative power? Electoral rules and candidate selection***

Apr. 6 - Mezey Chapter 4

“The Challenge of Diversity: Party Cohesion in the European Parliament.” – **BFK**

Apr. 8 - Strom and Swindle. 2002. “Strategic Parliamentary Dissolution.” *APSR*

McElwain. 2007. “Manipulating Electoral Rules to Manufacture Single Party Dominance.” *APSR*

“Will he, won’t he?: Election speculation” *The Economist* Jan. 3 2009 – **[ICON]**

***Week 12 (Apr 13 & 15)- Women in Parliament? Does descriptive representation matter?***

April 13 - Mezey Chapter 5 & 6

April 15 –Chapter 5 “Women in Parliament: Making a Difference.” By Azzam Karam and Joni Lovenduski. Read p. 187-207 & 230-248 in *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* (2005) found at <http://www.idea.int/>

“A Spoil-the-Men’s Party; Swedish Politics” *The Economist* April 16, 2005-**[ICON]**

***Week 13 (Apr 20 & 22) - Veto Players, and other approaches: what really matters?***

April 20 – Immergut, E. 1992. “The Rules of the Game: the logic of health-policy making in France, Switzerland and Sweden.” – **[ICON]**

Tsebelis and Money. 1992. “Cicero’s Puzzle: Upper House Power in Comparative Perspective” *International Political Science Review* 13, 1: 25-43.

April 22 – “Parties and Party Discipline within the European Parliament: A Norms-Based Approach.” – **BFK**

**Week 14 (Apr 27 & 29) – Bureaucratic oversight- bureaucratic autonomy and interest groups**

April 27 – \*\*\*Research Paper due today! \*\*\*

- Mezey Chapter 7

April 29 - Chapter 5 – “Legislative Oversight: Interests and Institutions in the United States and Argentina.” By Scott Morgenstern and Luigi Manzetti in *Democratic Accountability in Latin America*, Scott Mainwaring and Christopher Welna, eds (2003) – [ICON]

**Week 15 (May 4 & 6) - Changing Legislative rules?**

May 4 - Newell, James.2000. “Turning Over a New Leaf? Cohesion and Discipline in the Italian Parliament.” *JoLS* 6, 4: 29-52

Chapter 8 “Going Abroad: The House of Commons and the Austrian Parliament.”  
By Douglass Dion in *Turning the Legislative Thumbscrews*.

May 6 – Conclusions and Review - Study!

**May 7 – last day of classes**

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**The Political Science Department, The University of Iowa, Professor Wm. Reisinger, Chair, 341  
Schaeffer Hall, 335-2358**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** Website: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/> Instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students with physical, mental or learning disabilities. Students with disabilities which may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements are to inform the instructor (after class or during the instructor's office hours) so that appropriate arrangements may be made. It is the student's responsibility to contact Student Disability Services, 133 Burge Hall (335-1462) and obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request form (SAAR). The form will specify what course accommodations are judged reasonable for that student. An instructor who cannot provide the accommodations specified, or has concerns about the accommodations, must contact the Student Disability Services counselor who signed the request form within 48 hours of receiving the form from the student.

**DEPARTMENTAL/COLLEGIATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES** A student who has a complaint against any member of the college's teaching staff is responsible for following the procedures described in the Student Academic Handbook, which is available on the web site of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: <http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/#5>. The student should attempt to resolve the issue with the faculty member or teaching assistant involved. Lacking a satisfactory outcome, the student can turn to the department chair, whose name is listed above along with contact information. (If the complaint concerns a teaching assistant, the student should contact the supervising faculty member first.) If a satisfactory outcome still is not obtained, the student can turn to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Complaints may concern inappropriate faculty conduct (including inappropriate course materials), incompetence in oral communication, inequities in assignments, scheduling of examinations at other than authorized and published times, failure to provide disability accommodations, or grading grievances. In complaints involving the assignment of grades, it is college policy that grades cannot be changed without the permission of the department concerned.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING** You are expected to be honest and honorable in your fulfillment of assignments and in test-taking situations. Plagiarism and cheating are serious forms of academic misconduct. See Academic Fraud in the Student Academic Handbook at <http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/#2> for the complete policy. The Department of Political Science works with individual instructors to detect plagiarism and cheating and to ensure that appropriately serious punishments are applied. An instructor who suspects a student of plagiarism or cheating must inform the student (preferably in writing) as soon as possible after the incident has been observed or discovered. Instructors who detect cheating or plagiarism may decide, in consultation with the departmental executive officer, to reduce the student's grade on the assignment or the course, even to assign an F. The instructor writes an account of the chronology of the plagiarism or cheating incident for the departmental executive officer who sends an endorsement of the written report of the case to Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A copy of the report will be sent to the student.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT** You should familiarize yourself with the University's Policy concerning sexual harassment. It can be found at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/ii/04.htm>. Additional information is available from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html>.

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES** Your responsibilities to this class-and to your education as a whole-include attendance and participation. This syllabus details specific expectations the instructor may have about attendance and participation. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may



learn. At the most basic level, this means you will respect the other members of the class and the instructor and treat them with the courtesy you hope to receive in return.

**ENROLLED COURSES OUTSIDE YOUR COLLEGE** Taking a course outside the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences means that class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College where the course resides. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of the Dean of that College. Details of the University policy of cross enrollments may be found at: <http://provost.uiowa.edu/ucoll/students/registration.htm#cross>. The deadlines for course changes are listed on the Registrar's Office web site: <http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/>

**PLUS-MINUS GRADING** All the department's instructors can append plus or minus grades to the letter grades they assign for the course. If the instructor does not specifically indicate in the syllabus that he or she will not assign plusses or minuses, students should assume that this form of grading will be used.

**HOMEWORK EXPECTATION** For each semester hour of credit that a Political Science course carries, students should expect to spend approximately two hours per week outside of class preparing for class sessions. That is, in a three-credit-hour course, instructors design course assignments on the assumption that students will spend six hours per week in out-of-class preparation.

**REACTING SAFELY TO SEVERE WEATHER** The University of Iowa Operations Manual section 16.14 outlines appropriate responses to a tornado (1) or to a similar crisis: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/ii/22.htm>. If a tornado or other severe weather is indicated by the UI outdoor warning system, members of the class should seek shelter in rooms and corridors in the innermost part of a building at the lowest level, staying clear of windows, or large free-standing expanses such as auditoriums and cafeterias. The class will resume, if possible, after the UI outdoor warning system announces that the severe weather threat has ended.

Please visit the Political Science Department's web site: <http://www.polisci.uiowa.edu/>. It is frequently updated with new events and procedures in our department, changes in the Schedule of Courses, plus TA and faculty office hours when available. You also may find current information on pre-advising and registration. Our Vernon Van Dyke Computing Facility (Political Science ITC) is located in room 21 Schaeffer Hall. Available hours are listed at our web site and also posted outside room 21 SH.