

# Institutions and Comparative Political-Economic Development

GOV 365R (#39060)

Fall 2021

Monday/Wednesday, 10:00AM - 11:30AM

MEZ 2.124

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## **Course Description:**

This research- and writing-intensive undergraduate seminar explores the institutional foundations of alternative pathways to political-economic development in both economically advanced and developing countries. What drives economic and political development? Why do some economies grow more quickly and effectively than others? What explains political and economic institutional *decline*? And how do the specific linkages between states and their economies influence their economic and political trajectories? In answering these and related questions, we explore the experiences of a variety of countries from around the world from comparative and historical perspectives and from the vantage point of institutions theory.

In addition to introducing students to influential academic works in the field, this course prepares them to pursue theoretically informed and methodologically rigorous independent research projects. Each week, we will set aside time to instruct students on key aspects of the research and writing processes, including the formulation of research questions and hypotheses, developing bibliographies, research design, data analysis, and proposal writing. We will also introduce the class to basic methodological skills in the social sciences. Students will report regularly on their progress to the rest of the class and present their final papers at the end of the semester in a conference-style setting.

***The workload for this graduate-style course is heavy and intellectually demanding. Students are expected to complete all required readings by the beginning of each class, to participate actively in class discussions, and in keeping with a course bearing the “Independent Inquiry” flag, to proactively develop their research projects. Students who do not meet these expectations will receive warnings from the instructors.***

**Prerequisites:**

This course has no formal prerequisites. However, only majors or students with a strong grounding in political science should consider enrolling. Please direct questions about eligibility to the instructors.

**Flags:**

Writing; Independent Inquiry

**Course Materials:**

The required text for this course is available for purchase at the University Coop:

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die* (Crown, 2018).

All other assigned readings can be accessed through the Canvas website for this class.

You are encouraged to consult the following reference volumes, both of which are available online via the UT library website:

Rhodes, R.A.W., Sarah A. Binder, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Fioretos, Orfeo, Tulia G. Falletti, and Adam Sheingate, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1) Participation in class discussions and exercises:                         | 15% |
| 2) 3 short essays:   | 10% |
| 3) Writing assignment for Week 10 (Failed States):                           | 5%  |
| 4) "Research question" and statement of significance (1 p., double-spaced):  | 5%  |
| 5) Paper proposal + working annotated bibliography (2-3 pp., double-spaced): | 10% |
| 6) Draft abstract and paper outline:   | 10% |
| 7) Research paper (15-18 pages + annotated bibliography)                     | 35% |
| 8) 15-min. in-class paper presentation:                                      | 10% |

**Class Participation:**

You are expected to attend class regularly, to complete all the assigned readings in advance of each class, and to actively participate in class discussions and group exercises. Students will be called on at random to summarize the objectives, theories,

methodologies, and main arguments of the readings. We will provide regular feedback to students about their performance during class discussions.

### **Short Essays/ Short Assignment on Failed States:**

You will be asked to submit three short (max. 2 double-spaced pages each) essays over the course of the semester on assigned readings, including *How Democracies Die*.

In addition, for Week 10, you will be asked to submit a short essay (max. 2 pages) that uses institutional analysis to explain the failure of a modern state; this assignment will require extra research on your part.

### **Research Paper Project:**

Your research project should either: a) address the impact of specific institutions on the political and/or economic evolution of one or more countries; b) identify the causes/sources of a particular institution or set of institutions; or c) uncover the processes through which institutions change over time. Several of the course requirements are designed to help you break the research and writing processes into manageable steps, each of which we will explain in class through lectures, readings and in-class exercises:

- 1) Formulating an effective research question and explaining its significance.
- 2) Writing a research proposal and annotated bibliography. The research proposal is a broad plan for your paper that identifies not only your research question and other research objectives, but also your methodology (the qualitative and quantitative strategies for answering your question, etc.) and tentative argument. *You are expected to complete a major portion of your research before writing the proposal.*
- 3) Formulating your main argument (in “abstract” form) and outlining your paper.
- 4) Writing your paper. You may, if you wish, submit a preliminary draft of your paper for extra feedback. If you choose this option, your draft will be due 24 hours before your scheduled paper presentation. Whether you choose to write a preliminary draft or not, your final draft will be due on Dec. 13.

### **In-Class Paper Presentation**

Toward the end of the semester, we will hold a series of “mini-conferences” during which you will present—using PowerPoint—the objectives, arguments and findings, etc. of your research project. This will be an occasion for both the instructors and the audience to provide feedback which you can use during the (re)drafting of your paper.

### **Research Project Deadlines:**

- **Sept. 15:** Research question(s) due

- **Oct. 11:** Research proposal due
- **Nov. 5 (Friday):** Abstract and paper outline due
- **Dec. 13 (noon):** Final paper due

### **Covid Policies:**

This class is scheduled to be held in person. Since we know for a fact that masking lowers the risk of Covid transmission, **we strongly urge you to wear a well-fitting mask when entering and exiting the classroom and while listening to lectures.** We will wave these guidelines if it is safe to do so.

Should it become necessary, we reserve the right to take additional, reasonable measures to secure the health and safety of all of us in the classroom; **this may include moving temporarily to an online format.** We ask for your cooperation during these unprecedented times so that we may ensure as normal a classroom experience as we possibly can.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) for further information. <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>

### **Honor Code:**

Every student is expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code. Any violation can result in receiving “0” for the assignment in question as well as further disciplinary action. Students should refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php).

### **Class Guidelines:**

1. No laptop or cellphone use in class unless authorized by the instructors.
2. All assignments must be completed on schedule. Students with documented illnesses or military responsibilities may be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day beginning one hour after the deadline.
3. Please arrive for class on time. Absences, late arrivals to and early departures from class should be cleared with the instructors.

**Grading Scheme:**

| <b>Letter Grade</b> | <b>GPA</b> | <b>Percentage Score</b> |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| A                   | 4.0        | 94-100%                 |
| A-                  | 3.67       | 90-93                   |
| B+                  | 3.33       | 87-89                   |
| B                   | 3.0        | 84-86                   |
| B-                  | 2.67       | 80-83                   |
| C+                  | 2.33       | 77-79                   |
| C                   | 2.0        | 74-76                   |
| C-                  | 1.67       | 70-73                   |
| D+                  | 1.33       | 67-69                   |
| D                   | 1.0        | 64-66                   |
| D-                  | .67        | 60-63                   |
| F                   | 0          | 59 & below              |

## SEMESTER SUMMARY

| Week                 | Lecture & Discussion Topics (Monday)                                   | Tutorials in Research Methods & Writing (Wednesday)  | Assignment Due Dates                                    |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Aug. 25           |  | Introduction to the course                           |   |
| 2. Aug. 30 & Sept. 1 | Approaches to institutional analysis                                   | Introduction to research design                      |   |
| 3. Sept. 6 & 8       | Labor Day: no class  | Formulating research questions                       |   |
| 4. Sept. 13 & 15     | Formal vs. informal institutions                                       | Writing research proposals                           | Research questions due Sept. 15                         |
| 5. Sept. 20 & 22     | Institutional Change: Critical Junctures                               | Building bibliographies                              | Essay #1 due Sept. 20                                   |
| 6. Sept. 27 & 29     | Institutional Change: Path Dependence                                  | Qualitative methods: Comparative Historical Analysis |   |
| 7. Oct. 4 & 6        | Acemoglu & Robinson: <i>Why Nations Fail</i>                           | <i>Why Nations Fail</i> , cont'd                     | Essay #2 due Oct. 4                                     |
| 8. Oct. 11 & 13      | Comparative Economic Development (I): Japan in Comparative Perspective | Quantitative research methods (I)                    | Research proposals due Oct. 11                          |
| 9. Oct. 18 & 20      | Comparative Economic Development (II): China                           | Quantitative research methods (II)                   |   |
| 10. Oct. 25 & 27     | Contemporary failed states   | Giving research presentations                        | Failed States Assignment due Oct. 25                    |
| 11. Nov. 1 & 3       | Levitsky & Ziblatt: <i>How Democracies Die</i>                         | <i>How Democracies Die</i> , cont'd                  | Essay #3 due Nov. 1/<br>abstract/<br>outline due Nov. 5 |
| 12. Nov. 8 & 10      | No class: individual meetings w/ instructors                           | No class: individual meetings w/ instructors         |   |
| 13. Nov. 15 & 17     | Research Presentations   | Research Presentations                               |   |
| 14. Nov. 22 & 24     | Research Presentations   | Thanksgiving break: No class                         |   |
| 15. Nov. 29 & Dec. 1 | Research Presentations   | Research Presentations                               |   |
| 16. Dec. 6           | Paper Presentations  |  | Papers due Dec. 13                                      |

## **Lecture Schedule**

### **Week 1: Aug. 25**

#### **W) Aug. 25: Introduction to the Course**

No readings

### **Week 2: Aug. 30 & Sept. 1**

#### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Approaches to Institutional Analysis in the Social Sciences**

Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* XLIV: 936-957.

Optional:

North, Douglass C. 1991. "Institutions." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(1): 97-112.

Pierson, Paul. 2016. "Power in Historical Institutionalism." In Fioretos, Falleti, and Sheingate, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 124-41.

#### **W) Practice: Introduction to Research Design**

Collier, D., & Mahoney, J. (1996). Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research. *World Politics*, 49(1), 56-91.

### **Week 3: Sept. 6 & 8**

#### **M) Labor Day: no class**

### **W) Practice: Formulating Research Questions**

Consult the following on-line resource before class:

<https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/guides/how-to-write-a-research-question>

Optional:

Diermeier, Daniel, and Keith Krehbiel. 2003. "Institutionalism as a Methodology," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(2): 123-44.

## **Week 4: Sept. 13 & 15**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Formal vs. Informal Institutions**

Tsai, Lily L. 2007. "Solidarity Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China." *American Political Science Review* 101(2): 355-72.

Optional:

Helmke, Gretchen, and Steven Levitsky. 2004. "Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda." *Perspectives on Politics* 2(1): 725-40.

Tsai, Kellee S. 2006. "Adaptive Informal Institutions and Endogenous Institutional Change in China." *World Politics* 59(1): 116-41.

### **W) Practice: Writing Research Proposals**

Przeworski, Adam, and Frank Solomon. 1995. "On the Art of Writing Proposals." NY: Social Science Research Council.

## **Week 5: Sept. 20 & 22**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Explaining Institutional Change (1): Critical Junctures**



Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Kelemen. 2007. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism." *World Politics* 59(3): 341-369.

Optional:

Capoccia, Giovanni. 2016. "Critical Junctures." In Fioretos, Falleti, and Sheingate, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 89-106.

## **W) Practice: Building Bibliographies**

Consult "Building a Bibliography" (Modules) before class.

## **Week 6: Sept. 27 & 29**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Explaining Institutional Change (2): Path Dependence**

Boas, Taylor C. 2007. "Conceptualizing Continuity and Change: The Composite- Standard Model of Path Dependence," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 19(1): 33-54.

Optional:

James Mahoney, Khairunnisa Mohamedali, and Christoph Nguyen. 2016. "Causality and Time in Historical Institutionalism." In Fioretos, Falleti, and Sheingate, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 71-88.

### **W) Practice: Qualitative Methodologies: Comparative Historical Analysis & Process Tracing**

Ricks, Jacob I. and Amy H. Liu. 2018. "Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 51(4): 842-846.

Optional:

Bennett, Andrew, and Jeffrey T. Checkel. 2015. "Process Tracing: From Philosophical Roots to Best Practices." In Bennett and Checkel, eds., *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-37.

Thelen, Kathleen, and James Mahoney. 2015. "Comparative-Historical Analysis in Contemporary Political Science." In Thelen and Mahoney, eds., *Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-36.

## **Week 7: Oct. 4 & 6**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: *Why Nations Fail***

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. 1st ed. New York: Crown Publishers. Chapters 1-3 (pp. 7-95).

### **W) *Why Nations Fail*, cont'd**

#### **Optional:**

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail : The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. 1st ed. New York: Crown Publishers. Chapters 11-14 (pp. 302-427).

## **Week 8: Oct. 11 & 13**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Comparative Economic Development: Japan in Comparative Perspective**

Schaede, Ulrike. 2020. *The Business Reinvention of Japan: How to Make Sense of the New Japan and Why It Matters*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 42-67).

#### **Optional:**

Johnson, Chalmers. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-34).

Vogel, Steven K. 2018. *Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work*. London: Oxford University Press. Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 43-116).

### **W) Practice: Quantitative Methodologies (I): Measurement**

Meir, Kenneth J., Jeffrey L. Brudney, and John Bohte. 2011. *Applied Statistics for Public and Nonprofit Administration*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Thompson-Wadsworth Publishers, Chapter 2 ("Measurement," pp. 15-33).

## **Week 9: Oct. 18 & 20**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Comparative Economic Development: China**

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2018. "The Real China Model: It's Not What You Think It Is." *Foreign Affairs*. June 29, 2018.

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Introduction (pp. 1-19)

Optional:

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1-2 (pp. 23-72)

Xu, Chenggang. 2011. "The Fundamental Institutions of China's Reforms and Development." *Journal of Economic Literature* 49 (4):1076-151.

### **W) Practice: Quantitative Methodologies (II) How to Read Statistics**

No readings.

## **Week 10: Oct. 25 & 27**

### **M) Lecture/Discussion: Contemporary Failed States**

No readings.

### **W) Practice: Giving Research Presentations**

No readings.

**Week 11: Nov. 1 & 3**

**M) Lecture/Discussion: *How Democracies Die* (I)**

Students must read Levitsky & Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*, in its entirety by Nov. 1.

**W) Lecture/Discussion: *How Democracies Die* (II)**

**Week 12: Nov. 8 & 10:**

**No classes:** Individual meetings with instructors

**Week 13 – Week 16: Nov. 8 - Dec. 6: Paper Presentations**