

Institutions and Comparative Political-Economic Development

GOV 365R (#37365)

Fall 2024

Monday/Wednesday, 01:00PM - 2:30PM
UTC 4.110

Instructor: Dr. Xiaobo Lü
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Office Hours (Zoom):
M: 2:30-4:00; W: 2:30-4:00

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Office Hours Appointment Link:
<https://calendly.com/xiaobolu/office-hours>

Office Hours Appointment Link:
https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office/fall-2024-office-hours

TA: Ms. Jingwen Wu
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Office Hours (in person):
M: 11:30-1:00; Tues., 1:00-2:30

Course Description:

This research- and writing-intensive 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? Why are some countries more democratic than others? What explains political and economic institutional *decline*? In answering these and related questions, we explore the experiences of a variety of countries from comparative and historical perspectives and from the vantage point of theories of institutions.

In addition to introducing you to influential academic works in the field, this course prepares you to pursue theoretically informed and methodologically rigorous independent research projects. You will be instructed on key aspects of the research and writing processes, including the formulation of research questions and hypotheses, developing bibliographies, research design, data analysis, proposal writing, and argument development. We will also introduce you to basic qualitative and quantitative methodological skills. Together, these skills will help prepare you for both graduate school and research-related careers.

The workload for this course is heavy and intellectually demanding. You 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 your research projects. If you do not meet these expectations, you 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.

Independent Inquiry and Writing Flags:

Independent Inquiry courses are designed to engage you in the process of inquiry over the course of a semester, providing you with the opportunity for independent investigation of a question or problem related to your major. Thus, a substantial portion of your grade will come from the independent investigation and presentation of your own work. In keeping with these goals, we have strived to limit lecture-specific reading assignments so that you may devote the bulk of your time for this course to your research project.

Writing courses are designed to give you experience with writing in a specific academic discipline. Expect to do a significant amount of writing in this course and to receive extensive feedback from your instructors.

Course Materials:

There are no required textbooks for this course. All assigned readings can be accessed via our Canvas website.

The following volumes are useful references for the study of political-economic institutions. Both 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. Falleti, 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	10%
2) Quizzes on required readings	10%
3) Short essay (2-3 pages) on an assigned theme	10%
4) Research paper	60%
-Research question & project significance (5%)	
-Paper proposal (2 pages) & annotated bibliography (10%)	
-Abstract (max. 125 words) & paper outline (10%)	
-Final paper draft (approx. 15 pages, excluding bibliography (35%))	
5) In-class paper presentation	10%

Class Attendance/Participation:

Attendance is mandatory in this course, *especially since much of the information you will need to complete your research projects will be conveyed to you orally during the lectures.* You are also expected to participate actively in class discussions. Be prepared to be called on at random to comment on the objectives, theories, methodologies, and main arguments of the required readings, and to take part in small-group exercises. We will provide you with feedback during the semester about your performance.

Quizzes:

Several (5 or 6) timed quizzes on targeted readings will be held in class via Canvas over the course of the semester. Quiz dates will be announced in advance, and each quiz will start promptly at 1:00. (Students must bring their laptops to class on quiz days.) *Make-up quizzes are not permitted, but your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade.*

Short Essay:

You will be asked to submit a brief (2-3 double-spaced pages) analytical essay on a theme assigned by the instructors. Our feedback on this assignment should help you identify which skills you will need to improve/develop in order to successfully complete the research paper. Due Saturday, Sept. 21, 11:59 pm.

Essay grading rubric (100 points):

- Quality of argument (point of view + supporting evidence) (70 pts)
- Quality of writing/organization (20 pts)
- Attention to assigned readings (10 pts)

Research Paper Project:

Your research project must address the relationship between institutions and political-economic development. This can be done in a number of ways. For example:

- 1) Identify the the institutional causes of a political-economic phenomenon in one or more countries
- 2) Identify the origins of a particular institution, or set of institutions, that is/are pertinent to political-economic behavior in one or more contexts
- 3) Analyze how a specific institution shapes some outcome relating to political-economic development
- 4) Uncover the processes through which an institution changes over time
- 5) Test an institutional theory in one or more contexts

Etc.!

You will complete the research project in several steps that are designed to help you cultivate the following skills:

- 1) Formulating “research questions” and articulating their “significance”
- 2) Writing a research proposal and annotated bibliography. The research proposal is a broad plan for your paper that introduces your research question and other objectives, your methodology (the qualitative and quantitative strategies for answering your question), and your 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 the structure of your paper.
- 4) Writing your paper. Students have the option of submitting a preliminary draft for extra feedback.

Optional: you are welcome to submit a preliminary draft of your paper. We will give you suggestions on how to improve the paper and inform you of the grade the draft would receive were you to resubmit it with no further revisions.

Final paper grading rubric (100 points):

- Quality of argument (70 pts)
- Quality of writing/organization/citations (20 pts)
- Quality of sources/ annotated bibliography (10 pts)

Paper Presentation

At the end of the semester, we will hold a series of mini-conferences during which you will present—using PowerPoint—the objectives, arguments, and main findings, etc. of your research project. You will receive feedback from the instructors designed to help you complete your paper.

Research Project Deadlines :

- **Sept. 28 (Sat.), 12:00 noon:** Research question(s)
- **Oct. 19 (Sat.), 11:59 pm:** Paper proposal & annotated bibliography
- **Nov. 2 (Sat.) 11:59 pm:** Abstract and paper outline
- **Nov. 17 (Sun), 12:00 noon:** optional paper drafts due for students presenting on Nov. 18 or 20
- **Nov. 22 (Fri.), 11:59 pm:** optional paper drafts due for students presenting on Dec. 2, 4 or 9
- **Dec. 13 (noon):** Final paper due

Early submissions are strongly encouraged!

Student Accommodations:

Students with documented disabilities are welcome to request appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact the Disability and Access office (512-471-6259) for further information. <https://disability.utexas.edu/>

Honor Code:

You are 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 view the following tutorial for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=539686&p=8083280>

Class Guidelines:

1. No laptop or cellphone use in class unless authorized by the instructors.
2. All assignments must be completed on schedule. You may be exempted from this rule if you have a documented illness. 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 must be cleared with the instructors, preferably on the day before the relevant class.

Grading Scheme:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
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

Date	Topic	Assignment Due Dates
Aug. 26	Introduction to the Course/Research Project	
Aug. 28	Why Institutions Matter	
Sept. 2	No Class: Labor Day	
Sept. 4	Formal vs. Informal Institutions	
Sept. 9	Explaining Institutional Change: Critical Junctures	
Sept. 11	Explaining Institutional Change: Path Dependence	
Sept. 16	An Overview of Institutions & Economic Development	
Sept. 18	Formulating Research Questions / Sources	
Sept. 21 (Sat.)		Analytical essay (11:59 pm)
Sept. 23	Institutions in the Developed World: Industrial Policy	
Sept. 25	Institutions in the Global South: Developmental States	
Sept. 28 (Sat.)		Research Question (12:00 pm)
Sept. 30	Writing Research Proposals	
Oct. 2	Quantitative Methods I: Measurement	
Oct. 7	Quantitative Methods II: How to Read Statistics	
Oct. 9	Qualitative Methods: Comparative Historical Analysis & Process Tracing	
Oct. 14	Institutions in the Developed World: Welfare Systems	
Oct. 16	Institutions in the Global South: Welfare Systems	
Oct. 19 (Sat.)		Proposal & Annotated Biblio (11:59 pm)
Oct. 21	Institutions in the Developed World: Democracy	
Oct. 23	Institutions in the Global South: Democracy	
Oct. 28	Tips on Paper Writing	
Oct. 30	Open Topic: Students' Choice	
Nov. 2 (Sat.)		Abstract & Outline (11:59)
Nov. 4	Open Topic: Students' Choice	
Nov. 6	Wrapping Up	
Nov. 11 & 13	No Classes: Individual Meetings with Instructors	
Nov. 17 (Sun)		Optional paper drafts for students presenting on Nov. 18 and 20 (noon)
Nov. 18 & 20	In-Class Paper Presentations	
Nov. 22 (Fri)		Optional paper drafts for students presenting on Dec. 2, 4 & 9 (11:59 pm)
Nov. 25 & 27	No Classes: Thanksgiving	
Dec. 2, 4 & 9	In-Class Paper Presentations	
Dec. 13		Final Paper (12:00 pm)

Schedule

Week 1: Aug. 26 & 28

M) Introduction to the Course and Research Project

No readings

W) Why Institutions Matter

Heclo, Hugh. 2006. "Thinking Institutionally." In R.A.W. Rhodes, Sarah A. Binder, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 731-742 (Ch. 37).

Week 2: Sept. 2 & 4

M) Labor Day: no class

W) Formal vs. Informal Institutions

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

Week 3: Sept. 9 & 11

M) Explaining Institutional Change: 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.

W) Explaining Institutional Change: Path Dependence

Mahoney, James, and Daniel Schensul. 2006. "Historical Context & Path Dependence." In Robert Goodin and Charles Tilly, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 454-471 (Ch. 24).

Week 4: Sept. 16 & 18

M) An Overview of Institutions and Economic Development

Kohli, Atul. 2016. "States and Economic Development." In R.A.W. Rhodes, Sarah A. Binder, and Bert A. Rockman, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.167-180 (Ch. 9).

W) Formulating Research Questions/ Searching for Sources

Week 5: Sept. 23 & 25. Theme: *The Institutional Foundations of Industrial Policy and the Developmental State*

M) The Developed World

Juhász, Réka, Nathan Lane, and Dani Rodrik. 2024. "The New Economics of Industrial Policy." *Annual Review of Economics* (16): 213-242.

W) The Global South

Haggard, Stephan. 2018. *Developmental States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 3: Sources of Growth: Industrial Policy in the Developmental States, pp.13-31; Chapter 4: From Policy to Politics: Institutional, Coalitional, and Historical Foundations of Developmental States, pp. 32-51)

Week 6: Sept. 30 & Oct. 2

M) Writing Research Proposals

W) Quantitative Methods I: Measurement

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

Week 7: Oct. 7 & 9

M) Quantitative Methods II: How to Read Statistics

No readings.

W) Qualitative Methods: Comparative Historical Analysis and 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.

Week 8: October 14 & 16. Theme: *The Institutional Foundations of Welfare Systems*

M) The Developed World

Lynch, Julia, and Rhodes, Julia. 2016. "Historical Institutionalism and the Welfare State." In Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falletti, and Adam Sheingate, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 417-437 (Ch. 25).

M) The Global South

Fiszbein, Ariel and Norbert Schady. 2009. *Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Overview: pp.1-28.

Week 9: Oct. 21 & 23. Theme: *The Institutional Foundations of Democracy*

M) The Developed World

Levitsky, Steven, and Ziblatt. 2018. *How Democracies Die*. New York: Crown, 2018. (Ch. 4: "Subverting Democracy," pp. 65-84; Ch. 5: "The Guardrails of Democracy," pp. 85-100.)

W) The Global South

Robinson, James A. 2006. Economic Development and Democracy. *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 9: 503 -527.

Week 10: Oct. 28 & 30

M) Tips on Paper Writing

W) Open Topic: Students' Choice

Week 11: Nov. 4 & 6

M) Open Topic: Students' Choice

W) Wrapping Up

Week 11: Nov. 11 & 13. No Classes

M) Individual Student Meeting with Instructors

W) Individual Student Meeting with Instructors

Week 12: Nov. 18 & 20

M) Student Paper Presentations

W) Student Paper Presentations

Week 13: Nov. 25 & 27. No Classes

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Dec. 2 & 4

M) Student Paper Presentations

W) Student Paper Presentations

Week 15: Dec. 9

M) Student Paper Presentations