

Comparative Government: Political Institutions and the Political Process

Lecture Spring term 2024

Master of Arts (M.A.) Political Science ('Basismodul' Comparative Politics)
Recommended for students in the first semester

Or Tuttnauer
Tuesdays, 10:15 – 11:45 am
A5, C 217

SWS: 2
ECTS credit points: 7

Overview

This lecture gives an overview of selected theoretical concepts and the main research findings in the field of Comparative Government, specifically focusing on the role of political institutions and their impact on political decision-making at various stages in the political process. The course introduces a number of core themes in the comparative study of political institutions, grouped into three blocks. The first covers electoral institutions and their effects on the behaviour of parties, politicians, and voters. In the second block, we discuss the effects of political institutions on various aspects of legislative behaviour. In the final block, the lecture sheds light on the life cycle of governments and the role institutions play in it.

Course requirements and details

- Certificate by written examination.

Course Schedule and Reading Materials

Note: The first two reading items for each week are mandatory. The rest are recommended and will be mentioned in class.

13 February Introduction

Powell, G. Bingham. 2004. "The chain of responsiveness." *Journal of Democracy* 15(4): 91-105.

Block 1: Parties, elections, and voters

20 February Institutions, representation, and responsiveness

Thomson, Robert, et al. 2017. "The fulfillment of parties' election pledges: A comparative study on the impact of power sharing." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(3): 527-542.
Kedar, Orit, Liran Harsgor, and Raz A. Sheinerman. 2016. "Are Voters Equal under Proportional Representation?" *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 676-91.

27 February Electoral institutions and intra-party competition

Carey, John M., and Matthew S. Shugart. 1995. "Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas." *Electoral Studies* 14(4): 417-39.
Baumann, Markus, Marc Debus, and Tristan Klingelhöfer. 2017. "Keeping One's Seat: The Competitiveness of MP Renomination in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems." *The Journal of Politics* 79(3): 979-994
Ennsner-Jedenastik, Laurenz, and Wolfgang C. Müller. 2015. "Intra-party democracy, political performance and the survival of party leaders: Austria, 1945-2011." *Party Politics* 21(6): 930-943.

5 March Party organisation

Tuttnauer, Or, and Gideon Rahat. 2023. "Servants of Two (or More) Masters: Accounting for the Complexity of Intraparty Candidate Selection Methods." *Party Politics* 29(1): 185-92.
Amitai, Yair. 2023. "The Activists Who Divide Us: A Cross-Country Analysis of Party Activists' Influence on Polarization and Representation." *Comparative Political Studies*.
Poguntke, Thomas et al. 2016. "Party Rules, Party Resources and the Politics of Parliamentary Democracies: How Parties Organize in the 21st Century." *Party Politics* 22(6): 661-78.

12 March Party competition and election campaigns

Krause, Werner, Denis Cohen, and Tarik Abou-Chadi. 2023. "Does Accommodation Work? Mainstream Party Strategies and the Success of Radical Right Parties." *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(1): 172-79.
Tuttnauer, Or, and Simone Wegmann. 2022. "Voting for Votes: Opposition Parties' Legislative Activity and Electoral Outcomes." *American Political Science Review* 116(4): 1357-74.

19 March Institutions and voting behaviour

- Clark, William Roberts, and Matt Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's Theory: Testing the Mechanical and Strategic Modifying Effects of Electoral Laws." *Comparative Political Studies* 39(6): 679–708.
- Gschwend, Thomas, Michael F. Meffert, and Lukas F. Stoetzer. 2017. "Weighting parties and coalitions: how coalition signals influence voting behavior." *The Journal of Politics* 79(2): 642–655.
- Oshri, Odelia, Liran Harsgor, Reut Itzkovitch-Malka, and Or Tuttnauer. 2022. "Risk Aversion and the Gender Gap in the Vote for Populist Radical Right Parties." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Block 2: Legislatures

9 April Legislative organisation

- Sieberer, Ulrich. 2011. "The Institutional Power of Western European Parliaments. A Multidimensional Analysis." *West European Politics* 34(4): 731–754.
- Cirone, Alexandra, and Brenda Van Coppenolle. 2018. "Cabinets, Committees, and Careers: The Causal Effect of Committee Service." *The Journal of Politics* 80(3): 948–63.
- Martin, Shane. 2011. "Electoral Institutions, the Personal Vote, and Legislative Organization: Electoral Institutions." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36(3): 339–61.

16 April Parliamentary speechmaking and personal characteristics of MPs

- Proksch, Sven-Oliver, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2012. "Institutional Foundations of Legislative Speech." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 520–537.
- Wäckerle, Jens, and Bruno Castanho Silva. 2023. "Distinctive Voices: Political Speech, Rhetoric and the Substantive Representation of Women in European Parliaments." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12410>.
- Bäck, Hanna, Marc Debus, and Jorge M. Fernandes. 2021. "Unpacking comparative patterns in legislative debates." In: *The Politics of Legislative Debates*, edited by Hanna Bäck, Marc Debus and Jorge M. Fernandes. Oxford University Press: 825–850.
- Louwerse, Tom, Ulrich Sieberer, Or Tuttnauer, and Rudy B. Andeweg. 2021. "Opposition in Times of Crisis: COVID-19 in Parliamentary Debates." *West European Politics* 44(5–6): 1025–51.

23 April Parliamentary votes

- Hix, Simon, and Abdul Noury. 2016. "Government-Opposition or Left-Right? The Institutional Determinants of Voting in Legislatures." *Political Science Research and Methods* 4(2): 249–73.
- Louwerse, Tom, Simon Otjes, David M Willumsen, and Patrik Öhberg. 2017. "Reaching across the Aisle: Explaining Government–Opposition Voting in Parliament." *Party Politics* 23(6): 746–59.
- Williams, Laron K. 2011. "Unsuccessful Success? Failed No-Confidence Motions, Competence Signals, and Electoral Support." *Comparative Political Studies* 44(11): 1474–99.

Block 3: Governments

30 April Government formation

- Martin, Lanny, and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(1): 33-50.
- Aaskoven, Lasse, and Shane Martin. 2023. "Parliamentary Control of the Executive and the Duration of Government Formation." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
- Ecker, Alejandro, and Thomas M Meyer. 2015. "The Duration of Government Formation Processes in Europe." *Research & Politics* 2(4):1-9.

7 May Portfolio allocation and coalition agreements

- Ecker, Alejandro, Thomas M. Meyer, and Wolfgang C. Müller. 2015. "The distribution of individual cabinet positions in coalition governments: A sequential approach." *European Journal of Political Research* 54(4): 802-818.
- Klüver, Heike, and Hanna Bäck. 2019. "Coalition agreements, issue attention, and cabinet governance." *Comparative Political Studies* 52(13-14): 1995-2031.
- Sieberer, Ulrich, Thomas M. Meyer, Hanna Bäck, Andrea Ceron, Albert Falcó-Gimeno, Isabelle Guinaudeau, Martin Ejnar Hansen, Kristoffer Kolltveit, Tom Louwerse, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Thomas Persson. 2021. "The political dynamics of portfolio design in European democracies." *British Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 772-787.

14 May Government termination

- Damgaard, Erik. 2008. "Cabinet Termination." In *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining: The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*, edited by Kaare Strøm, Wolfgang C Müller, and Torbjörn Bergman. Oxford University Press, pp. 301-326.
- Schleiter, Petra, and Edward Morgan-Jones. 2009. "Constitutional Power and Competing Risks: Monarchs, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and the Termination of East and West European Cabinets." *American Political Science Review* 103(3): 496-512.

21 May The electoral consequences of ruling

- Fortunato, David. 2019. "The Electoral Implications of Coalition Policy Making." *British Journal of Political Science* 49(1): 59-80.
- Söderlund, Peter. 2016. "Candidate-Centred Electoral Systems and Change in Incumbent Vote Share: A Cross-National and Longitudinal Analysis." *European Journal of Political Research* 55(2): 321-39.
- Debus, Marc, and Or Tuttnauer. 2024. "Negative Campaign Statements, Coalition Heterogeneity, and the Support for Government Parties." *Electoral Studies*.

28 May Conclusion