I. Goals and Objectives of the Course

This course focuses on “political development”. Political development is defined as the process of “institutionalization” where political organization acquires “value and stability”. In this course we will focus on the development of political institutions, in four ways:

- exposing the student to the broad theoretical literature on the development of institutions (such as state building-- including why democracy and authoritarianism emerges as part of the state building process);
- the politics of institutional choice- i.e. explaining why some institutions are “chosen” over others when designing the democratic state, such as the choice of electoral systems, different types of federalism, and the structure of legislative, executive and judicial functions, etc;
- the evolution of political parties (both in terms of systems and organizations) in democracies and post authoritarian contexts;
- examining how institutions develop in post conflict environments.

This course is primarily designed to provide both a broad overview of major theoretical approaches to the study of political development in the field of comparative politics (i.e the focus of this course will not be on US politics, but there is a good deal of overlap between the fields).

One of the goals of this course is to promote the analytical skills of the student. This involves not only knowing the broad literature but also exposure to the practice of conducting critical analysis (such as what appears in a typical political science journal article). In this class, you will be expected to write a paper that can be submitted as a conference proposal. I also encourage collaboration on the final project, but this is limited to two authors.

II. Texts: There are NO required texts for this course. All readings will either discoverable via the library OR will be placed on Canvas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in this course will be based on a take-home final exam (worth 200 points), five article summaries worth 100 points total, (20 points apiece), a research project (worth 200 points) and
presentation (worth 50 points), with the final 50 points determined by class participation. The total number of points for this course is 600. The writing assignments are intended to sharpen your analytical skills and give you some experience with the kind of analysis that you will be required to do in your other courses, on your comprehensive exams (for Ph.D. students), and in the kind of research and writing you will do as a practicing political scientist. Further the country/conflict briefings are meant to provide you with some real substantive knowledge about real cases in the world.

A. Exam: (200 points)
There will be a take-home final exam that will consist of essay questions. You are free to use any books, notes, or journal articles that you have, but you are not to confer with other students on the test questions. Evidence of collaboration with other students or anyone else will be treated as an instance of cheating and dealt with according to University rules on cheating. You will receive a grade of "0" for the exam and an "F" for the course. The exam will be distributed during the last class week (December 3) and will be due December 8 by 11:59 pm. There is a 10-point penalty for each day you are late turning in an exam.

B. Article Summaries (5) (100 points): Each of you will write a weekly paper on articles that are assigned for presentation. For each article, one student will prepare a two-page handout (single- or double-spaced) on which the seminar discussion for that day will be based. Email me your handout by noon on the previous day.

Your handout should follow the following format:

(1) Topic
Summarize the topic of the paper as concisely as possible. If empirical try to make the main independent and dependent variables conspicuous. E.g., “The impact of electoral systems on economic performance” “The impact of bicameralism on the electoral fortunes of ruling parties”. If a theoretical piece, summarize the basic argument(s) made

(2) Previous work
List one or few key articles or books on which the article builds its argument.

(3) Summarize the main findings of the article.

(4) Data- Describe the cases, observations, and variables. (if applicable)

(5) Comments
Subject the piece to a critique. Point out positives and negatives about the article. If you can find a major problem in the article and offer a constructive solution, that will be the best thing to do. The next best thing would be to discuss a major problem without offering a solution or to point out a not-so-major problem while presenting a solution. If you cannot do any of those, discuss minor problems or nice things about the article.

E. Research Project: (200 points)
Over the course of the semester, you should select a topic of interest to you (and related to your
dissertation research) that is related to the topics covered by the course and develop a research project that should culminate in a conference paper and/or publication. This paper will be completed in two stages. The first installment should be a research statement with a literature review: you will present detailed problem statement that clarifies the research puzzle at the center of your project. This statement should be in a form that makes it clear that testable hypotheses can be derived from it. It should be on the order of an extended abstract of a journal article. In order to demonstrate how this research puzzle is grounded in existing research, you should offer in support of the problem statement a literature review that covers a minimum of 10 refereed journal articles or books, chapters in edited books, government reports, or any other type of resource. Each summary should be preceded by a complete citation of the relevant journal article, in the style format of the American Political Science Review. This installment is due Tuesday, October 8.

The final draft should include 1) the research problem statement (revised and expanded from the first draft), 2) a detailed literature review, which is an analytical essay that explains how this body of works defines the parameters of research program in comparative politics in which your research project is grounded, and 3) your research design, which includes a theoretical framework (derived from the literature) from which you derive one or more testable hypotheses and then specify what data would be required to test these hypotheses; 4) your results and conclusions. The final draft is due Friday December 13 by 5:00 pm (electronically via email to me).

F. Oral Presentation of your research project: (50 points)
You will be required to present you research design in a “public forum”—I will ask some of your other fellow graduate students to attend. I will set up a special session (depending on your schedules) where you will be asked to present you research designs orally. Each of you will have 10-12 minutes to present (in a “panel” of 4) to be followed by “discussion” period. Each paper will be assigned a “discussant” who will be responsible for commenting on the paper and making constructive suggestions for improvement. You will be evaluated by your peers (including other audience members) and the instructor and the format will be similar to what you would find at a typical political science conference.

G. Class Participation: (50) points- The quality of your class participation will be assessed both by the instructor and your peers. I pay particular attention to the quality of your comments, not just the quantity. Further, attendance does matter – if you are not in attendance, you are not participating.

Your final grade will be based a final percentage based on a denominator of 600 points

Remember:
1. The research project, oral presentation, and reaction paper assignments assignment are not optional; you will receive a grade of “F” for the course if you do not turn in any one of the major paper assignments, regardless of your score on the exam.
2. You may NOT turn in an identical paper that you have done in another class this semester or any previous semester. If you do, that will be counted as an instance of plagiarism, and you will receive a grade of “F” for the course and be referred to the appropriate University authorities.
3. Collaboration with academic peers is an increasingly important way to get published. Thus, I
encourage collaboration on the final project, but only up to a maximum of two authors. Your final grade will be assessed individually, however.

4. Your paper must demonstrate that you have read multiple scholarly articles from several different referred scholarly journals (not news magazines, government reports, web sites), and you must use the appropriate citation and bibliographic format (APSA style)

5. Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, with no more than one-inch margins on all four sides and no larger than 12-point type. You must turn in an electronic copy (by email) in MS Word, word perfect, or pdf format.

6. You may NOT change topics after you turn in the first installment. If you decide you cannot complete the paper you originally proposed, see me. To change topics you will have to do the first installment for your new topic before you turn in your final draft.

IMPORTANT DATES
October 8  Research problem and literature review due
December 13 (Friday) Final draft of research paper due
December 3 Take-Home Final distributed
December 8 Take Home Final due
Final Presentation: December 10

COURSE OUTLINE
The course outline that follows delineates in sequence the major themes addressed in the course and the assigned readings for each theme. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and come to class prepared to discuss them. Class participation counts towards your grade, and informed discussion requires careful reading of the assignments.

PART I: State Formation and Regime Types

August 27: Introduction to the course (What is this course about?)
Understanding the Research Process and Getting Publishing.

September 3- What is Political Development and What is the State?


September 10 War and State Building


September 17 Democracy


September 24 Autocracy


PART II: Political Institutions

October 1:

- Ishiyama “Electoral Systems” (on Canvas)

October 8

- Ishiyama “Legislatures and Executives” (on Canvas)
- *Mainwaring, Scott. 1993 “Presidentialism, Multipartism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination” Comparative Political Studies 26(2)
- *Power, Timothy and Mark Gasiorowski (1997) “Institutional Design and Democratic Consolidation in the Third World', Comparative Political Studies, 30(2)
- *Tsebelis, George and Tatiana Rizova (2007) Presidential Conditional Agenda Setting in the Former Communist Countries.” Comparative Political Studies 40(10)
October 15

- Ishiyama “Comparative Judicial Politics and the Territorial Arrangement of the Political System” (on Canvas)


**Part III: Political Parties**

October 22  Party Systems


October 29: Types of Political Parties


November 5: Party organization


• Yanai, Nathan. 1999. “Why do political parties survive?” Party Politics 5(1);5-17

November 12: Party Behavior and Party Change

• Carey John. 2007. "Competing Principals, Political Institutions, and Party Unity in Legislative Voting" AJPS 51-1, 92-107


Part IV: post conflict institutions

November 19 Power Sharing, Conflict Management, and Democracy


**December 3 Post Civil War Parties**


**FINAL PRESENTATIONS (TBA) December 10**