

**Varieties of Democracy: The Logic of Political Institutions**  
**Comparative Analysis of Political Systems**  
**Institute for Social Sciences**  
**Humboldt University Berlin**

Course Number: 53107  
Prof. Ellen M. Immergut, Ph.D.  
SS 2004  
Mondays  
10-12  
Room UNI 3, 001

Office Hours:  
Wednesday 12-13 in Café Meyerbeer

Description: This is a graduate level seminar (masters and doctoral program) which reviews competing theories about political institutions and investigates their empirical validity in cross-national perspective.

Requirements:

Diplom/Masters' *for grade*: 25 Page Term Paper; Preparation of Discussion Questions; Short Presentation (10 minutes); Executive Summary and Critique of Supplementary Reading (3 pages); Attendance (no more than three missed classes, including the guest lectures); Active participation as evidenced by random presentation; enrolment in class by signing up in class.

Masters' *for recognition*: Preparation of Discussion Questions; Short Presentation (10 minutes); Executive Summary and Critique of Supplementary Reading (3 pages); Attendance (no more than three missed classes, including the guest lectures); Active participation as evidenced by random presentation; enrolment in class by signing up in class.

Masters' SP1 *Zivilgesellschaft und Demokratie*  
and SP4 *Europäische Studien*

Diplom: 7 *Intermediäre Institutionen, Entscheidungsprozesse und politische Willensbildung*

Week 1                      Introduction  
19.04.2004

## **I. Institutional Theory: Why would we want to study institutions?**

Week 2                      Normative Theories of Political Institutions  
26.04.2004

\*Jon Elster, *The Market and the Forum: Three Varieties of Political Theory*, in: J. Elster and A. Hylland, Foundations Of Social Choice Theory, (Cambridge/London/New York/New Rochelle/Melbourne/Sydney: Cambridge University Press, 1986): 103-132.

Jürgen Habermas, *Drei normative Modelle der Demokratie: Zum Begriff deliberativer Politik*, in: H. Münkler, Die Chancen der Freiheit: Grundprobleme der Demokratie, (Zürich: Piper, 1992): 11-24.

Week 3                      The Institutional Approach in Comparative Politics

03.05.2004

\*Kathleen Thelen, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics", Annual Review of Political Science 2 (1999):369-404.

Ira Katznelson, *Structure and Configuration in Comparative Politics*, in: M. I. Lichbach and A. S. Zuckerman, Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997): 81-112.

## **II. The Comparative Method: How should one study political systems?**

Week 4      The Behavioralist Approach  
10.05.2004

\*Arend Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method", American Political Science Review 65 (1971):682-693.

Gabriel A Almond, "A Developmental Approach to Political Systems", World Politics (1965):

Week 5      The Comparative Historical Approach  
17.05.2004

\*Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics", Political Analysis 2 (1990):131-150.

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, *Can One or a Few Cases Yield Theoretical Gains?*, in: J. Mahoney and D. Rueschemeyer, Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003): 305-336.

## **III. The Logic of Political Institutions**

Week 6      Consensus v. Majoritarian Democracies  
24.05.2004

\*Arend Lijphart, "Democratic Political Systems: Types, Cases, Causes, and Consequences", Journal of Theoretical Politics 1 (1989):33-48.

Bingham G Powell, Jr. und Georg S Vanberg, "Election Laws, Disproportionality and Median Correspondence: Implications for Two Visions of Democracy", British Journal of Political Science 30 (2000):383-411.

Feiertag (31.05.2004)

Week 7      The Veto-Players Theory  
07.06.2004

\*George Tsebelis, "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism and Multipartyism", British Journal of Political Science 25 (1995):289-325.

George Tsebelis, "Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis", American Political Science Review 93 (1999):591-608.

#### **IV: The Impact of Institutions on Policy Outcomes**

Week 8      Political Institutions and the Welfare State  
Wednesday!!!16.06.2004

\*Bernhard Kittel und Herbert Obinger, "Political parties, institutions, and the dynamics of social expenditure in times of austerity", Journal of European Public Policy 10 (2003):20-45.

And Friday!! 18.06.04      Guest lecture: Prof. Dr. Kittel

Week 9      Political Institutions and Political Performance  
21.06.2004

\*Klaus Armingeon, "The Effects of Negotiation Democracy: A Comparative Analysis", European Journal of Political Research 41 (2002):81-105.

Manfred G Schmidt, "Political Performance and Types of Democracy: Findings from Comparative Studies", European Journal of Political Research 41 (2002):147-163.

Arend Lijphart, "Negotiation Democracy Versus Consensus Democracy: Parallel Conclusions and Recommendations", European Journal of Political Research 41 (2002):107-113.

Week 10      Political Institutions and Tax Policy  
28.06.2004

\*Sven Steinmo, "Political Institutions and Tax Policy in the United States, Sweden, and Britain", World Politics (1989):500-535.

Mark Hallerberg, and Scott Basinger, "Internationalization and Changes in Tax Policy in OECD Countries: The Importance of Domestic Veto Players", Comparative Political Studies 31 (1998):321-353.

Week 11      Political Institutions and Full Employment Policy

05.07.2004

\*Fritz W Scharpf, *Economic and Institutional Constraints of Full-Employment Strategies: Sweden, Austria, and Western Germany, 1973-1982*, in: J. H. Goldthorpe, Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism, (Oxford: Clarendon Press/Oxford University Press, 1984): 257-290.

Peter A Hall, *The Movement from Keynesianism to Monetarism: Institutional Analysis and British Economic Policy in the 1970s*, in: T. Steinmo and F. Longstreth, Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Perspective, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992): 90-113.

Week 12      Conclusion

12.07.2004      Guest Lecture Prof. Dr. Abromeit (12:30-14:00)