Pol 219 H1: INSTITUTIONS AND BEHAVIOR
IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Thursdays, 12-2
Autumn term 2021

Professor Randall Hansen
Office: Munk School, 121 N
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 Online

Description

Since its establishment in the late nineteenth century, the discipline of Political Science has defined itself through the study of institutions. This course will explore the effect of institutions on power, coups and attempted coups, segregation and racial discrimination, gender and sexuality, economic reform and inequality, immigration and immigration policy, and the segregation and sterilization of people with mental disabilities, among other topics. Institutions examined will include traditional formal institutions (electoral systems, constitutions, courts, executives, legislatures, party systems), intermediate institutions (trade unions and interest groups), and sub-rosa institutions (homes for the people with disabilities, residential schools). It will examine these issues by analyzing countries in both the global north (Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and the global south (Brazil, Iran, India, Libya, and South Africa).

Learning Outcomes:

This course will aid students in:

1. Understanding the basic institutions that collectively constitute the state: the executive, legislature, courts, bureaucracy, the police, and the army.
2. Deepening their understanding of a broad range of countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.
3. Exploring how different institutional arrangements encourage or inhibit political stability, breakdown, and violence; economic equality/inequality; and the rights of women, racialized minorities (and, in some cases, racialized majorities), and LGBTQ+ people.
4. Theorizing the relationship between national institutions, on the one hand, and intermediate and sub-rosa institutions, on the other.
Requirements and Grade Breakdown

1. **Response Paper (20%)** to Financial Times podcast, “How much trouble is Bolsonaro in?” Link: https://www.ft.com/content/62adf884-e4c6-421b-bdff-cfe1fcae8dcd
   Due date: September 29, 11:59pm. Submit to Quercus.

   Instructions: Write a 750-word paper on the following question: *is a coup more likely in Brazil or the United States?* Provide an institutional answer to the question. That is, which institutional arrangements make a coup more or less likely in the two countries? Imagine you are drafting a policy paper for senior policymakers in Paris and Berlin who are worried about the fate of democracy in the Americas. The paper must be in prose; bullet points are not acceptable.

2. **Essay outline (10%):** A 500-word outline of your essay
   Due date: October 20, 11:59pm. Submit to Quercus.

   Instructions: Write an outline of your essay. Specify ten sources. At least five them must be peer-reviewed: university press books or journal articles [NB: not book chapters]. The other five must be reputable sources such as book chapters (ideally from books published with university presses), the Financial Times, the New York Times, the Economist, New Republic, New York Review of Books, and similar. The Wall Street Journal and the National Review are fine. Be very wary of FOX News and Breitbart; they are fact-free propaganda outlets. There might be a reason to engage them, but do so critically and discuss them with your TAs or me. Guardian investigative pieces are fine but avoid commentaries above all from non-staff columnists. Readings assigned or recommended on the syllabus do not count towards this requirement; the point of research is to go beyond that which is available in class.

   The outline should summarize your argument, which you should be able to state in at most three sentences, as well as the evidence you will cite. Foreign language citations are fine. Indeed, they are to be encouraged, but translate them into English. The same scholarly standards of course apply.

3. **Essay (35%):** 2,000 words.
   Due Date: November 10, 11:59 pm. Submit to Quercus
   See Quercus for instructions.

4. **Final Take-Home Test (25%):** December 2, 12:00-14:00
   Details will follow.

5. **Tutorial Participation (10%)**
   Students will be graded on their tutorial attendance, as well as their participation in tutorials (e.g. asking and questions, as well as engaging in class discussion). Details will be announced by the TAs.

Course Drop Date: November 8, 2021
**Late Penalties & Extensions**

The penalty for late submission is a modest 3% **per day** *(including weekends)*, to a maximum of two weeks.

Extensions must be requested with legitimate reasons (illness, family tragedy) at least full three days before the essay is due (for instance, by 11:59 pm on September 26 for the first assignment). After that, no extensions are given. **Extensions are in all cases for a maximum of two weeks; after that, no work will be accepted.** This policy may appear firm, however, there is no ill-will implied by it; on the contrary, managing deadlines is an essential life skill, and private sector employers take an uncompromising view of deadlines. We are not doing you any favors with an overly generous extension policy. Start your work early, and you will have no difficulty meeting deadlines. Good luck!

**Email Communication**

Students are encouraged to raise questions not answered by the syllabus in class, tutorial, and office hours. **Email should be a last, not a first, resort.** Asking questions in class and tutorial will benefit other students, and it will increase your confidence in public speaking (another essential life skill). For matters that cannot be raised in class, TA and instructor emails are:

**Teaching Assistant:**

Gözde Böcü gozde.bocu@mail.utoronto.ca [Email hours: 9am-5pm].

**Instructor:** r.hansen@utoronto.ca [Emails hours: 9am-5pm].

**Essay Submission**

Normally, students will be required to submit their essay final draft to Turnitin.com for a review of textually similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Tutorials**

Tutorials will take place Thursday after class, and they will be a mix of in-person and online. They are mandatory and an integral part of the course for which you receive marks.
Course Materials


You may purchase an e-copy for $55.95 here:

https://www.campusebookstore.com/integration/AccessCodes/default.aspx?bookseller_id=96&course=STG+POL+219H+eBOOK+CASES+%26+CONCEPTS+IN+COMPARATIVE+POLITICS+2E&frame=YES&t=permalink

Hard copies are available at the University of Toronto bookstore or on amazon.ca

Academic misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

COURSE OUTLINE

1. September 9: Introduction


2. September 16: Political Science and the Study of Institutions

   O’Neil et al., Chapters 1-2: “Introduction” and “States.”

   Recommended reading

3. September 23: The State

O’Neil, Chapter 6, “Democratic Regimes.”

Weber, Max. “Politics as a Vocation,” Lecture, Munich, January 1919. (Quercus)

Recommended reading


4. September 30: Failed Coups

O’Neil et al., “The United States.”

Jonathan Tepperman, “Why This Wasn’t a Coup,” Foreign Policy, January 6, 2021. (Quercus)


Recommended reading

https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/title/seizing-power


https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510347.2016.1251905

5. October 7: Successful Coups

O’Neil et al., ‘Brazil.’


https://www.economist.com/banyan/2014/05/20/introducing-the-non-coup (Quercus)

Recommended reading


https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00472336.2016.1150500

https://www.jstor.org/stable/24483554

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09546550109609673

https://www.economist.com/banyan/2014/05/25/the-darkened-horizon (Quercus)

*Economist,* “Come on, get happy (Thailand’s military coup),” June 7, 2014.

6. October 14: Making Democracy work: Electoral Systems

O’Neil et al., “The United Kingdom.”


https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01402382.2019.1591043

Recommended reading


https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510340903271761


7. October 21: Apartheid and Segregation

O’Neil et al., “South Africa.”


Recommended reading

Richardson, Heather Cox. How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. [on how appeals to ‘freedom’ and above all “states’ rights” are smokescreens for entrenching racial privilege and how the westward expansion of the Union, after 1865 and 1964, magnified white supremacist power]


8. October 28: Institutions and Political Economy

O’Neil et. al, Chapter 4, “Political Economy.”

O’Neil et al., “Germany”


Recommended reading


O’Neil et al, Political Economy sections of chapters on France, Japan, Russia, China, Mexico, and Nigeria.


9. November 4: Eugenics, Sterilization, & People with Mental Disabilities


Financial Times “Irish victim of school sex abuse wins Strasbourg case” https://www.ft.com/content/583fba7e-883a-11e3-8afa-00144feab7de, January 28, 2014 (Quercus)

Recommended reading


10. **November 8-12:** Reading Week. No classes.

11. **November 18: Gender, Identity, and Sexuality**


Pelz, Michael. *EU Expansion and LGBT Rights: Explaining Variation in State Responses to LGBT Rights in Central and Eastern Europe* (Toronto: University of Toronto PhD in Political Science, 2015), overview chapters. (Quercus)


*Overview of gender and politics:*


*Recommended reading*


12. November 25: Political Violence, Terrorism, and Forced Migration

O’Neil et al., Chapter 5, “Political Violence” and “Iran.”


“Migrants and refugees in detention centres: the humanitarian consequences of Libya’s governance breakdown” https://www.refworld.org/docid/583c0d874.html


*Recommended reading*


13. December 2: Final on-line test: 12:00-14:00

*Details to follow.*