The University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science  

POL2701H Comparative Politics Core Course 2A: Comparative Institutional Politics  
Winter Term 2022-24

**Instructor:**
Michael J. Donnelly (mj.donnelly@utoronto.ca)  
Office location: 315 Bloor St. W., Room 213  
Office hours: TBD

**Lecture Time and Venue:**
Time: Mondays, 2-4pm, SS3130.

**Course Description and Format:**
This is one of the two possible core courses designed for those specializing in comparative politics. Building on the required core course in the previous term, this course provides further coverage on areas that centre on institutions and a “top-down” approach to studying politics. This seminar is reading and discussion intensive. All students are expected to have covered the required readings for each session. The recommended readings complement the required readings and the expectation is that, together, they will provide a foundation for students preparing for field examination. While I have indicated specific chapters for the required books, that does not mean that the other chapters are unimportant.

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<th>Requirements:</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong> Class Participation (12)</td>
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<td>Demonstrate knowledge of readings, ability to see the bigger picture, and how they all “fit together”.</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong> Discussion Lead (4)</td>
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<td>Each week (weeks 2-11), 2 students will be assigned to lead the discussion. Working together, they should produce a set of discussion questions designed to hit the key theoretical, methodological, and empirical points of the week’s topic. Weeks to be assigned.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Reading Responses (2)</td>
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<td>3 pages each addressing: what are the key questions, theoretical arguments and contribution, and evidence? How does it inform on the “big picture” in comparative politics? Offer your own critique. Weeks to be assigned. Electronic copy due 8pm the day before.</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong> Mini essay: Application (1)</td>
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<td>10-15 single-spaced pages: Identify a big debate in the field – a question on which prominent scholars disagree. Summarize at least</td>
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two positions and describe a research design that would let you adjudicate between them. A rough draft should be sent to your discussant before class on Week 11. Due on the final class.

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| 5 | **Presentation (I)**  
In the final week, each student will present their final project. Format to be discussed in class. | 10% |
| 6 | **Discussant (I)**  
Each student presentation will be assigned a discussant. Written and oral comments will be graded. | 5% |

**Week 1 (8 Jan): Researching Institutions**


**Recommended:**


**Week 2 (15 Jan): The State I: Public Goods, Embeddedness, and Reach**


Recommended:


**Week 3 (22 Jan): The State II: State Power, Compliance, and Legitimation**


- James Scott, 1998. *Seeing like a State*. Yale University Press. Introduction (pp.1-8), Chapter 2 (pp.53-84) and Chapter 6 (pp.193-222).


Recommended:


**Week 4 (29 Jan): Political Economy**


• Culpepper, Pepper D. 2010. *Quiet Politics and Business Power: Corporate Control in Europe and Japan*. Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1 and 2)


Recommended:


**Week 5 (5 Feb): Regimes I: Origins**


Recommended:


Week 6 (12 Feb): Regimes II: Stability and Transition


**Recommended:**


Reading Week (19 Feb)

**Week 7 (26 Feb): Authoritarianism**


- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2010. Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War. Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 2)


**Recommended:**


**Week 8 (4 March): Democratic Regimes**


• Cheibub, José Antonio. 2007. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 5)


**Recommended**


**Week 9 (11 March): Democratic Institutions (I)**


Recommended


Week 10 (18 March): Democratic Institutions (II)


**Recommended**


**Week 11 (25 March): Voting, Elections and Clientelism**


Recommended:


Week 12 (1 April): Paper Discussions