Winter Term 2017/18

14335.0102 Comparative Political Institutions

MA Lecture
6 ECTS points (PO2008/09)/6 ECTS points (PO2015)

UPDATED

Dr. Sarah Berens

Tuesdays 16.00 – 17.30
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Course Overview
This is an introductory course for the field of comparative political institutions on the MA level. We proceed along fundamental analytical questions: Why do institutions evolve at all? Why do they change and in which way? What are their effects on political actors, political processes and policy making? In order to answer questions like these the most relevant analytical concepts in the field will be introduced: institutional equilibria and equilibrium institutions; institutional design, institutional change, and endogenous institutions; path dependence; preference aggregation, co-ordination, collective action, and principal-agent relations; veto player theory and types of democracy. This conceptual overview will be followed by applications towards the distinction between autocracy and democracy, democratization, and development.

Prerequisites
A good knowledge of general political science concepts, theories and basic quantitative and qualitative methods is required. Students should have completed a course on statistics prior to this course so that a basic familiarity with quantitative methods, in particular linear regression analysis, can be expected. Students should be able to understand and articulate themselves in English as this will be the general classroom language. Of course, perfection is not required but you should be able to make yourself understood.

Reading
The required reading is indicated as such, but you will also find recommended readings which are not required for class. The recommended readings list only serves as orientation in case that you intend to delve deeper into the particular research topic. All readings are available electronically (and recommended readings) on Ilias.

Registration

1
Registration takes place via KLIPS. I strongly recommend registration as this ensures that you may get information about ad hoc changes in the schedule.

Basic Reading Recommendations (optional)

October 10th 2017
NO CLASS

1. October 17th 2017
Introduction

Recommended reading:

2. October 24th 2017
Rational Choice Institutionalism

October 31st 2017
NO CLASS: National holiday (Reformationstag) - vorlesungsfrei

3. November 7th 2017
Structure Induced Equilibrium
4. **November 14th 2017**  
**Institutional Design and Path Dependence**


**Recommended:**  

5. **November 21st 2017**  
**Institutional Change**


6. **November 28th 2017**  
**Preference Aggregation: The Effects of Electoral Systems**


7. **December 5th 2017**  
**Collective Action**


8. **December 12th 2017**  
**Common Pool Resources**


9. **December 19th 2017**  
**Principal-agent Relations**


10. January 9th 2018

**Institutions, Democracy and Autocracy**


11. January 16th 2018

**Democratization**


12. January 23rd 2018

**Institutions and Development**


Recommended reading:


13. January 30th 2018

**Veto player theory**


**EXAM:**

**Date:** February 6th 2018 (Time: TBA)

**Location:** TBA