

Syllabus

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The United States in Comparative Perspective Department of Political Science, UCSD, Spring, 2007

Co-instructors

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Note: Office hours (including announcements about any changes that might be necessary to a given day's hours) are listed on the [home page](#).

Email assignments and queries about the course to uscomparative@gmail.com

Assignment Breakdown:

- **1st Short Assignment: 10%**
- **Midterm (Short Answer) 30%**
- **2nd Short Assignment 20%**
- **Final Assignment 40%**

[Please see the policy on late assignments.](#)

Course outline

Note: All readings will be posted at the course website (<http://uscomparative.googlepages.com/>) unless otherwise indicated.

References to USCP draft refer to draft chapters of a book being co-authored by Bernard Grofman, Arend Lijphart, and Matthew Shugart, *A Different Democracy: The United States in Comparative Perspective*.

Please do not link to the course website at any personal or publicly available Web location; doing so would compromise our ability to post copyrighted material for your convenience.

Readings/Assignments – Watch for Updates!

Date Topic Reading/activity

Mon 4/2	<u>Why is US different?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Party System and Constitution • Policies • US politics has too much/too little... 	Assignment: Find out your <i>Political Compass</i> scores and log on to the anonymous wiki page to enter your scores To take the “test” go to http://www.politicalcompass.org/
Wed 4/4	Organizations: Core Concepts [slides] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective action – how “wanting something” becomes “getting something” • Delegation and accountability relationships 	Samuel Kernell and Gary Jacobson, <i>The Logic of American Politics</i> , Ch 1 <i>on reserve at SSH</i>
Fri 4/6	Patterns of Representation [slides (selected)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majoritarian/Consensus • Centralized/Decentralized • “veto players” and veto gates” 	Arend Lijphart, <i>Patterns of Democracy</i> , Chs. 2-3.
Mon 4/9	<u>Madison and the Federalist papers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition • Checks • Multilevel government • Multiple majorities • Majority Faction 	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> , Nos. 10 & 51 <u>Kernell_JacobsonP50-58_.pdf</u>

Wed 4/11	Executives: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidentialism and Parliamentarism • Accountability structure • US vs Parliamentary Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ UK ◦ Canada ◦ India 	Matthew Shugart, "Executives" in <i>USCP</i> (draft) Watch the videos of the Canadian confidence and no-confidence votes of May and November, 2005. Highly recommended: Brief news selections on recent Indian politics. Also interesting for background: Watch a short segment of Prime Minister's Question Period.
Fri 4/13 –	Variation among Presidential regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactive Powers • Proactive Powers • Cabinet Powers/ "Semi-Presidential" [Selected slides from 4/11 & 4/13]	Shugart, "Comparative Executive- Legislative Relations," in Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions.
Mon 4/16	Parties [selected slides] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party Goals • Means of Organization • Membership • Party in Systems 1st short assignment due	<u>Epstein <i>Political Parties in Western Democracies</i> Ch5</u> Selections from Alan Ware <i>Political Parties and Party Systems</i> p112-123 <u>Table: Party Fragmentation</u>
Wed 4/18 -	Proportional Representation, Part 1: The US vs other presidential regimes (PR) [selected slides] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inter-party dimension of electoral systems • Party Lists/District Magnitude • Latin American Examples 	<u>IADB, Chapter 3</u> Jones 1993 "The political consequences of electoral laws in Latin America and the Caribbean"

Fri 4/20	<p>Proportional Representation, Part 2: The US vs parliamentary PR regimes [USCP_elect-sys_parl.pdf]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low magnitude "PR", MMP, "True" PR • Post-electoral Coalition Bargaining • Multiparty Cabinets <p>1st short assignment returned (by email, in the afternoon)</p>	<p>Lijphart, <i>Patterns of Democracy</i>, Ch. 8.</p> <p>Germany: New Government Pact Finally in Place (news item)</p>
Mon 4/23	Review day	
Wed 4/25	Midterm (Short answer)	
Fri 4/27	<p>The personal vote in the US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts - "All politics is local" • Constituency service/Pork • Primaries/Intraparty competition 	<p>Cain et al "The Constituency Service Basis of the Personal Vote for U.S. Representatives and British Members of Parliament"</p> <p><u>News Story</u></p> <p><u>News Story 2</u></p> <p><u>News Story 3</u></p>
Mon 4/30	<p>The Personal Vote in other countries, compared to the US</p> <p>See outline for topics;</p> <p>Selected slides</p>	Norris Ch 10
Wed 5/2	<p>Selecting the president Part 1 – US Electoral College and Primaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ sub-plurality 	<p>Shugart, "US Presidential Selection in Comparative Perspective," <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i>, 2004.</p>

	<p>(2000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contingent election in House ◦ 'swing states' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct plurality – Mexico 2006 • Direct majority – France 2002 and 2007 <p>Slides</p>	News briefs: USA 2004; France 2007; Mexico 2006
Fri 5/4	<p>Primaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequencing states • State govts choose method <p><i>click above for slides</i></p>	<p>The Alternative Vote</p> <p><u>California Primary Change</u></p> <p>2008 Calendar</p> <p><u>Types of Primaries</u></p>
Mon 5/7	<p>Constitutional Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written vs. unwritten • Super-majorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ one or two houses ◦ subnational ratification or referendum <p><i>click above for slides</i></p>	<p><u>Lijphart, Draft USCP chapter on constitutions</u></p> <p>...</p> <p><u>Assignment 2 Announced</u></p>
Wed 5/9	<p>Federalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the US • Decentralization/Unitary states 	<p><u>USCP_federalism.pdf</u></p> <p>Alfred Stepan, "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the US Model" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 10.4 (1999): pp. 19-34. (Note: You will need to be accessing from campus or</p>

	[slides]	<p>with a proxy server/VPN account in order to view this article.)</p> <p>News briefs on comparative federal systems:</p> <p>Brazil, Canada, Germany, India</p>
Fri 5/11	<p>Congress – Bicameralism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of lower house • Bicameralism as related to federalism • Constituencies of upper houses • • Power of upper house • Examples of bicameralism: US homeland security policy and UK House of Lords reform debate <p>[slides]</p>	<p><i>USCP</i> draft chapter on Congress</p> <p>News brief: Homeland Security funding</p> <p>BBC radio program (segment on UK House of Lords, begins about 12 minutes into program)</p>
Mon 5/14	<p>Congress II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal - Filibuster, House majority • Individual member incentive/power 	<p>Owens and Loomis "Qualified Exceptionalism" get the general points here, not polisci debates: <u>ANWR filibuster</u></p> <p>Former Speaker Hastert's Reflections</p>
Wed 5/16	<p>Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity of court system • Judicial review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Separate const ct or not ◦ Abstract/concrete? <p>[selected slides]</p>	<p><i>USCP</i> draft chapter on judiciaries</p> <p>Examples of op-eds (all on US judicial appointments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objections_have_no_basis.pdf • NatRev_advice-consent.pdf • Ornstein_15-year_judterms.pdf • USJudicialConf--StevenHill.pdf <p>Recommended: CRS-Filibuster.pdf</p>

Fri 5/18	Bureacracy/Policy Implimentation – differences of US, UK (etc) bureaucracy	<p>Moe & Caldwell "The Institutional Foundations of Democratic Government: A Comparison of Presidential and Parliamentary Systems"</p> <p>Matthew D. McCubbins "Abdication or Delegation? Congress, the Bureaucracy, and Delegation Dilemma "</p> <p><u>Assignment 3 Announced</u></p>
Mon 5/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative Policy Issues 	<p>Two policy case studies as examples:</p> <p>Japan postal privatization and the "snap" election</p> <p>US steel tariffs (2002-03 and 2004); also recommended as background briefing: What is 'fast_track'?</p>
Wed 5/23	Normative Issues in US party system	<p>Slivinski "In defense of gridlock"</p> <p><u>In Praise of Pork</u></p> <p><u>Nader on Health Care</u></p> <p><u>Ron Paul on Iraq</u></p> <p>Buchanan on Immigration</p>
Fri 5/25	Brainstorm on final projects	Read <u>Assignment 3</u> instructions, come prepared with some ideas and questions about the assignment.
Mon 5/28	Holiday	
Wed 5/30	Reforms 1: Other countries making reforms to the	Assignment 2 due today or on one of the next two classes

	<p>legislative electoral system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand (Royal Commission proposes MMP; and consequences: Coalition Politics MMP-NZ) • British Columbia (BC-STV proposal by Citizens Assembly) • Ontario (MMP proposal by Citizens Assembly) 	<p>depending on topic.</p> <p>Readings are at links on the left; note that all students are expected to do the reading (it is not as much as the number of links implies!) on each of these <i>Reform</i> days, regardless of their own assignment topic. Classes will be discussion-based, with minimal formal lecture or presentation (i.e., more like that of 5/21 than like the sessions earlier in the quarter).</p> <p>Assignment 2 due today (WEDNESDAY 5/30) if topic is US legislative electoral system or citizen's assembly.</p>
<p>_____ Fri 6/1</p>	<p>_____ Reforms 2: Reforming US presidential elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportional allocation of electors • <u>National Popular Vote</u> (interstate compact) • Direct vote options (click on link for Chapter 4 and read section on "Electing a President," pp. 130-38) • Also refer to our 5/2 class 	<p>_____ Readings are at links on the left</p> <p>Assignment 2 due today (FRIDAY 6/1) if topic is US Presidential elections (electoral college)</p>
<p>_____ Mon 6/4</p>	<p>_____ Reforms 3: State and local reforms</p> <p><u>Term limits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Chaos blamed on term limits</u> <p><u>STV & IRV</u></p>	<p>_____ Readings are at links on the left</p> <p>Assignment 2 due today (MONDAY 6/4) if topic is state or local reforms (term limits, preference voting) or another approved topic</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Burlington, Vt., first to elect mayor using instant runoff</u> • <u>New Study Shows Problems with Runoff Elections in L.A</u> • <u>Report on IRV in SF</u> 	Assignment 3 Outline Due by today
Wed 6/6	Institutional Engineering	<u>Creating a Constitution for Afghanistan</u> <u>The New Iraq: Democratic Institutions & Performance</u>
Fri 6/8	Summary/Review	
Mon 6/11 FINAL	Final Assignment due	Assignment 3 due by 4pm today