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

Co-instructors
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Office: SS&L Room 352

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, Arind 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/activity</th>
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</table>
| Mon 4/2 | **Why is US different?**  
- Background  
- Party System and Constitution  
- Policies  
- US politics has too much/too little... | **Assignment:**  
Find out your Political Compass 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]  
- Collective action – how "wanting something" becomes "getting something"  
- Delegation and accountability relationships | Samuel Kernell and Gary Jacobson, The Logic of American Politics, Ch. 1  
on reserve at SSH |
| Fri 4/6 | **Patterns of Representation**  
[slides (selected)]  
- Majoritarian/Consensus  
- Centralized/Decentralized  
- "veto players" and veto gates | Arend Lijphart, Patterns of Democracy, Chs. 2-3. |
| Mon 4/9 | **Madison and the Federalist papers**  
- Ambition  
- Checks  
- Multilevel government  
- Multiple majorities  
- Majority Faction | The Federalist Papers, Nos. 10 & 51  
Kernell_JacobsonP50-58.pdf |
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Material</th>
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| Wed   | 4/11 | Executives: Introduction  
- Presidentialism and Parliamentarism  
- Accountability structure  
- US vs Parliamentary Examples  
  - UK  
  - Canada  
  - India | Matthew Shugart, "Executives" in USCP (draft)  
Watch the video 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  
- Reactive Powers  
- Proactive Powers  
| Mon   | 4/16 | Parties  
[Selected slides]  
- Party Goals  
- Means of Organization  
- Membership  
- Party in Systems | Epstein Political Parties in Western Democracies, Ch5  
Selections from Alan Ware Political Parties and Party Systems p112-123  
Table: Party Fragmentation |
| Wed   | 4/18 | Proportional Representation, Part 1: The US vs other presidential regimes (PR) [selected slides]  
- The inter-party dimension of electoral systems  
- Party Lists/District Magnitude  
- Latin American Examples | IADB, Chapter 3  
Jones 1993 "The political consequences of electoral laws in Latin America and the Caribbean" |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Low magnitude “PR”, MMP, “True” PR</td>
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<td>• Post-electoral Coalition Bargaining</td>
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<td>• Multiparty Cabinets</td>
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<td>1st short assignment returned (by email, in the afternoon)</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Review day</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Midterm (Short answer)</td>
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<td>• Districts - “All politics is local”</td>
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<td>• Constituency service/Pork</td>
<td>News Story</td>
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<td>• Primaries/Intraparty competition</td>
<td>News Story 2</td>
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<td>News Story 3</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>The Personal Vote in other countries, compared to the US</td>
<td>Norris Ch 10</td>
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<td>See outline for topics;</td>
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<td>Selected slides</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Electoral College sub-plurality</td>
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<td>Resources</td>
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| Fri 5/4 | Primaries | The Alternative Vote  
California Primary Change  
2008 Calendar  
Types of Primaries |
| | - Sequencing states  
- State govs choose method |
| click above for slides |
| Mon 5/7 | Constitutional Change | Liphart, Draft USCP chapter on constitutions  
Assignment 2 Announced |
| | - Written vs. unwritten  
- Super-majorities  
- one or two houses  
- subnational  
- ratification or referendum |
| click above for slides |
| Wed 5/9 | Federalism | USCP_federalism.pdf  
Alfred Stepan, "Federalism and Democracy: Beyond the US Model" Journal of Democracy 10.4 (1999): pp. 19-34. (Note: You will need to be accessing from campus or |
| | - In the US  
- Decentralization/Unitary states |
Fri 5/11

Congress – Bicameralism
- 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

USCP draft chapter on Congress
News brief: Homeland Security funding
BBC radio program (segment on UK House of Lords, begins about 12 minutes into program)

Mon 5/14

Congress II
- Internal - Filibuster, House majority
- Individual member incentive/power

Owens and Looms "Qualified Exceptionalism" get the general points here, not policy debates
ANWR filibuster
Former Speaker Hastert's Reflections

Wed 5/16

Judiciary
- Complexity of court system
- Judicial review
  - Separate constitutional or not
  - Abstract/concrete?

[selected slides]

USCP draft chapter on judiciaries
Examples of op-eds (all on US judicial appointments):
  - Objections_have_no_basis.pdf
  - NatRev_advice-consent.pdf
  - Ornstein_15-year_judterms.pdf
  - USJudicialConf—StevenHill.pdf

Recommended: CRS-Filibuster.pdf
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<td>Matthew D. McCubbins “Abdication or Delegation? Congress, the Bureaucracy, an Delegation Dilemma”</td>
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<td>Mon 5/21</td>
<td>* Comparative Policy Issues</td>
<td>Two policy case studies as examples: Japan postal privatization and the “snap” election US steel tariffs (2002-03 and 2004); also recommended as background briefing: What is ‘fast_track’?</td>
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<td>Mon 5/28</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Buchanan on Immigration</td>
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<td>Fri 5/25</td>
<td>Brainstorm on final projects</td>
<td>Read Assignment 3 instructions, come prepared with some ideas and questions about the assignment.</td>
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<td>Wed 5/30</td>
<td>Reforms 1: Other countries making reforms to the</td>
<td>Assignment 2 due today or on one of the next two classes</td>
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legislative electoral system

- 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)

depending on topic.
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 Reform 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).

Assignment 2 due today (WEDNESDAY 5/30) if topic is US legislative electoral system or citizen's assembly.

Fri 6/1

Reforms 2: Reforming US presidential elections

- Proportional allocation of electors
- National Popular Vote (interstate compact)
- Direct vote options (click on link for Chapter 4 and read sections on "Election a President," pp. 130-38)
- Also refer to our 5/2 class

Readings are at links on the left
Assignment 2 due today (FRIDAY 6/1) if topic is US Presidential elections (electoral college)

Mon 6/4

Reforms 3: State and local reforms

- Term limits
- Chaos blamed on term limits
- STV & IRV

Readings are at links on the left
Assignment 2 due today (MONDAY 6/4) if topic is state or local reforms (term limits, preference voting) or another approved topic
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<td>Institutional Engineering</td>
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<td>Fri 6/8</td>
<td>Summary/Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6/11</td>
<td>Final Assignment due</td>
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**Creating a Constitution for Afghanistan**

**The New Iraq: Democratic Institutions: Performance**