PAD 6109: Institutions and Society

Spring 2007
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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of formal and informal institutional contexts of democratic governance, how these institutions emerge or are created and how they change. Emphasis will be on the structure of government administrative powers and administrative reform.

Required Texts:


Requirements:
Students are required to read the assigned materials, participate fully in class, prepare written research assignments, make presentations, and write a final examination. For each class some students will be assigned to make presentations on the assigned readings. The purpose of these presentations is not to summarize the content of the readings. Each presentation will indicate how ideas in that particular reading relate to others in the same week. Presentations will raise critical issues and questions regarding the readings and their application to practice and/or other theories, literature and empirical research. Presenters who fail to follow these guidelines will be stopped by the instructor. Each presenter will post on the Web Board a couple of pages of commentary on the readings that highlights the major arguments of his or her presentation. This must be posted at least 70 hours prior to class (8:00 the preceding Friday night). All other students will post a brief response to this commentary within 24 hours of class (6:00 Sunday).

The paper assignment will be in two parts. The first part is a research design/literature review for an analysis in which institutions are the dependent variable. This paper will develop a research question, demonstrate its contribution to the existing literature, develop a theoretical framework for investigating the questions and describe the design and analysis that would be used to answer the question. The format for this research design will be similar to that of a research grant proposal. This paper will be submitted by March 12th.

The second part is an empirical research paper. This paper should build upon the first assignment and be approximately 25 pages in length. My expectation is that this will reflect your best work and should be suitable to submission to JPART or other refereed journal. A draft of the paper will be submitted online by Friday the 13th of April. The final version is due April 26th. Late papers will only be accepted with great prejudice.

Grading:
Research Design/Review 10%
Final Paper 45%
Online assignments and participation 15%
Presentations and in class participation 15%
Final Exam 15%
The class page is on the blackboard system at: http://campus.fsu.edu.

Honor Code:
The Academic Honor System of the University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in his/her own work (2) to refuse to tolerate academic dishonesty in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of honor and social responsibility on the part of students.

Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should follow these steps: (1) provide documentation of your disability to the Student Disability Resource Center (08 Kellum Hall, 644-9566); (2) bring a statement from the Student Disability Resource Center indicating that you have registered with them to your instructor the first week of class. The statement should indicate the special accommodations you require.
Course Outline and Readings

1 DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ROLE

1. Introduction 1/8
Course overview and discussion of what makes a good research question.
In advance of the first class meeting read chapter 1 in the King Keohane, and Verba book.

2. Online Submission of Potential Questions 1/15
MLK holiday – no class meeting

Required:
King Keohane, and Verba, Chs. 2-5.
- students will submit 1 or more potential questions to the blackboard site

3. Economic Approaches: Property Rights and Institutional Environments 1/22

Required:


Peter G. Klein, “New Institutional Economics”


Recommended:
4. Economic Approaches: Transaction Costs and Governance Structures

Required:


Recommended:


Scott and Meeyong Lamothe and Richard Feoick. 2006. “Vertical Integration in Municipal Service Provision: In-House Public Production of Previously Outsourced Services”

5. Sociological Approaches: Structure and Embeddedness

Required:
James G. March, Martin Schulz, and Xueguang Zhou 2000. The Dynamics of Rules: Change in Written Organizational Codes.


Recommended:


W. Richard Scott and John W. Meyers, Institutional Environments and Organizations.
6. Political Science Approaches: Conflict and Bargaining 2/12

Required:


Jack Knight, Institutions and Social Conflict Chs. 1-3.

Nancy Burns The Formation of American Local Governments: Private Values in Public Institutions, Oxford University Press.

Recommended:


II SYNTHETIC APPROACHES TO INSTITUTIONS

7. Institutional Analysis and Development 2/19

Required:
Elinor Ostrom 2005. Understanding Institutional Diversity in Open Societies, Princeton University Press. (you can skim chs.5-7)

Recommended:
Elinor Ostrom, Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action

8. Network Analysis 2/26

Required:


Ranjay Gualati “Where Do Networks Come From”

Recommended:


III APPLICATIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL APPROACHES

9. Organization of Administrative Agencies 3/12

Required:

Recommended:


10. Administrative Reform 3/19

Required:


Recommended:


Miller, Gary. 1985, "Progressive Reform as Induced Institutional Preferences," Public Choice 47


11. ASPA 3/26

12. Regional Governance Arrangements 4/2

Required:
Richard Feiock  2004 Metropolitan Governance: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation, Chapter 1, Georgetown University Press.

Ronald Oakerson 1999. “Governance Structures and Problem Solving in Metropolitan Areas”


Recommended:


Bennett Harrison “It Takes a Region (Or Does It?)

William Blomquist and Adela Schlagler “Watershed Management from the Ground Up: Political Science and the Explanation of Regional Governance Arrangements”
13. Theories of Institutional Change 4/9
Required:
Jack Knight, Institutions and Social Conflict Chs. 4-7.


Douglass C. North “Five Propositions about Institutional Change”
http://netec.mcc.ac.uk/WoPEc/data/Papers/wpawuwpeh9309001.html

Recommended:


14. Presentations of Final Papers 4/16

15. Final Exam 4/23
- paper Due 4/26

Online assignment #1:
Prepare one or more research questions that could potentially be the basis for your final research proposal assignment. This is to be submitted to the discussion board of the class Blackboard web site by January 15. You should consult chapter one the section on Improving Research Questions in Chapter 1 of the King Keohane and Verba text (pages 14-18) for guidance.