PS688
Institutional Analysis: Parliaments and Beyond
Orit Kedar
Tuesday, 10-12
Haven Hall, fifth floor, Walker Room

E-mail: oritk@umich.edu
Web: www.umich.edu/~oritk
Office hours: Tuesday 2-4.
Office: ISR, #4271

Course description:
This course will discuss institutional mechanisms, their cause, and effect. In particular, we will discuss topics such as presidential and parliamentary democracies, representation, coalitions (formation, bargaining, and duration), bicameralism, veto players, European federalism and European parliament, electoral rules and performance, and institutional reform. Most, though not all, topics will be discussed in the empirical context of OECD countries.

Books and reading materials:
The following books are on reserve and available for purchase at Ulrich, Michigan Union Bookstore, and Michigan Book and Supply:
    Cambridge University Press.

Assignments:
Attendance and participation: attendance, participation, and contribution to the discussions are an important part of the course requirements. You are expected to attend the session having done the reading and reflected upon them and to contribute to the discussion. Please let me know ahead of time if you have to miss a session.

Discussion leading: each student will be responsible for one topic. This includes distributing a few questions that will serve as a guide for reading the material, giving a short presentation in class (5-10 minutes) as an introduction to the discussion, and participating in leading the discussion on that week. Questions should be distributed by Friday at 5.
**Research presentation:** in the last few weeks of the semester, students will present their research to the class and receive feedback on their projects.

**Research paper:** an original research paper. By November 7 at 5PM you will have to hand in one page of preliminary research about your topic and the form the paper will take. Papers are due on April 25 at 5PM.

**Course Plan:**

**January 10**
Introduction

**January 17**
**Representation: Parliaments, Governments, and Policy**


**January 24**
**Presidential and Parliamentary Democracies**

January 31

Parliaments


February 7

Theories of Coalitions and Bargaining


b. TBA


d. Cox—work in progress about portfolio allocation. To be distributed.

e. We will also spend some time in class discussing Power Indices.

February 14

Theories of Coalitions, Bargaining, and Minority Governments


February 21

Bicameralism


March 7

Veto Players


March 14

European Federalism


March 21

EU Parliament


d. Kreppel. TBA

March 28
Electoral Rule and Corruption

April 4
Electoral Rules and Policy

April 11
Institutional Reform

April 18
Student Presentations
Poster session. Time and place TBA.