PAD 6109: Institutions and Society

Spring 2012, Monday 6th floor conference room
Instructor: Dr. Richard C. Feiock
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 Bellamy 642
rfeiock@fsu.edu

Course Description:
The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding institutional theories and the formal and informal institutional contexts of democratic governance. We will investigate how institutions emerge or are created and how they change.

Required Texts:


Recommended Texts:


Readings Assignments and Presentation Requirements
Most of the papers assigned are available in electronic form. “Core reading” is to be read by everyone. “Individual reading” is read by just one person who will report the content, along with any criticism of the article, to the rest of the class.

Instructions for Individual Readings: Apart from the research, this is the most important part of the class. You should consider the presentation of the individual readings to be part of your preparation for college teaching and for professional life (e.g. conferences). In addition to having learning potential for you, if you do well we all benefit. First, the individual readings will be one of the primary ways we will all expand our knowledge. Second, if you make a lively presentation we will not be bored!
When you are assigned an individual reading, the requirements are as follows:
(1) provide a two-page handout for students and for me (no need to do this before class);
(2) the handout should include (a) a full citation; (b) the abstract (yours or the official one); (c) identification of the primary dependent variable(s) - their name, how are they measured; (d) the second page should include the single most important table or figure from the paper;
(3) presentation (not including questions and answers) should take no more than 10 minutes;
(4) do not read any part of your presentation - practice your presentation until you can make it without notes (the handouts are for the rest of us);
(5) be sure to tell us why the paper is important (from an explanatory and theory development basis, not in terms of application);
(6) be critical, tell us what is good and bad about the paper.

Instructions for the Core Readings: In some instances I will be leading the discussion of the core readings, but in some instances, I will pick a student to lead the discussion. When you are the one picked, your role will be exactly the same as it is for the individual readings except you will not be expected to have a hand out ready. I will not be identifying the leader for the core readings ahead of time—so it is a good idea to stay up with the assignments.

Paper:
The paper assignment will be in two parts. The first part is a research design for an analysis in which institutions are the dependent variable. It will be completed by March 19th. The final version of the empirical research paper will be submitted by April 10th. This paper should be approximately 25 pages in length. My expectation is that this will reflect your best work and should be suitable to submission to a refereed journal. Late papers will only be accepted with great prejudice.

Grading:
The grade for the course will be determined as follows:
Research Design 5%
Final Paper 35%
Participation, Presentations and Other Assignments 30%
Final Exam 30%

The class page is on the blackboard system at: http://campus.fsu.edu.

Attendance Policy:
Excused absences include documented illnesses, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Accommodations for these excused absences will be made and will do so in a way that does not penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.
Academic Honor Policy:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm.)

Americans with Disabilities Act:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.
This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.
For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building
(850) 644-9566 (voice); (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu; http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/
Course Outline and Readings

I DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ROLE

1. Overview of Approaches 1/9

Course overview and discussion of content and assignments

Core:

Individual:

2. Perspectives for Studying Institutions 1/23

Core:
Elinor Ostrom Understanding Institutional Diversity, Ch.1.


Robert Cooter. The Strategic Constitution, Ch 1.


Individual:


Assignment:
Submit a paragraph that states a research question (that could potentially be the basis for your final research proposal assignment) and provides a few sentences explaining why it is an important question. This is to be submitted to the discussion board by January 17th.
3. **Public Choice and Property Rights** 1/30
   
   Core:
   

   Peter G. Klein, “New Institutional Economics”


   Individual:
   


4. **Organizational Transaction Costs and Governance Structure** 2/6
   
   Core:
   


Individual:
Eric Brousseau and Emmanuel Raynaud 2006, The Economics of Private Institutions: An Introduction to the Dynamics of Institutional Frameworks and to the Analysis of Multilevel Multi-type Governance.


Kimberly Moore and Maxwell L. Stearns, “The Law and Economics of Survivor”


5. Sociological/Organizational Approaches 2/13
Core:


James G. March, Martin Schulz, and Xueguang Zhou 2000. The Dynamics of Rules: Change in Written Organizational Codes. Chs. 1, 3

Individual:


6. **Political Science and Political Economy Approaches 2/20**

Core:


Individual:
Christopher Berry, *Imperfect Union: Representation and Governance in Multilevel Governments*. Ch. 1-2.


II **SYNTHETIC APPROACHES TO INSTITUTIONS**

7. **Social Networks 2/27**

Core:


Peter Monge and Nashir Contractor “Theories of Communication Networks” Chs. 2&4

Individual:

Ranjay Gualati “Where Do Networks Come From?”


8. **Spring Break**

Readings:

Research design for final paper due 3/5

9. **Institutional Analysis and Development  3/12**
Core:

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

Individual:


10. **The Institutional Collective Action Framework (ICA)  3/26**
Core:


Individual:


11. **The Political Market Framework 4/2**

Core:

Richard Feiock and Mark Lubell and In-Won Lee. 2011. "A Political Market Explanation for Policy Change" *


Individual:


12. Institutional Change 4/9
Core:


John L. Campbell, Institutional Change and Globalization chapters 5-6 (and review chs. 1-4).

Individual:

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


13. Presentations of Final Papers the week of 4/16
   4 panels with discussants
   Paper Due

14. Final Exam 4/23