



## Institutions of Governance and Representation

Academic Year 2018/2019  
1st Semester 9 hours

André Azevedo Alves  
3 ECTS

### Overview and intended learning outcomes of the course

This course aims at introducing students to major ideas underpinning the comparative analysis of political institutions and to current theories regarding the impact of institutional variation and governance. The course will give the student the opportunity to progress from an introduction to institutional analysis to the comparison of the different state institutions. Students will also investigate and discuss different legal and constitutional models of state power, mainly the relationship between executive and legislative and the impact of these relationships on governance and representation. It will include both diverse theoretical literature, and also an empirical component of analysis of political institutions. This course aims to compare institutions of democracies from elections through to their formal procedures and political systems and will provide an overview of the major approaches to democratic theory and representation.

- I) Conceptualizing political institutions
- II) Do institutions matter?
- III) Rational choice institutionalism
- IV) Voting behaviour
- V) Political regimes and electoral systems
- VI) Executive-Legislative relations and institutions
- VII) Representation and participation politics
- VIII) Party systems and political parties

### Teaching methodologies and assessment

Classes will be structured around the key readings and student participation in their discussion is expected. In addition to the key readings, students will also be expected to engage in empirical analysis through the preparation, presentation and discussion of case studies. The preparation and presentation in class of a case study to be agreed with the lecturer, along with overall participation in the classes, will account for 30% of the grade. The remaining 70% will be determined through an individual exam covering the whole of the course.

### Bibliography

- Alves, A. A. (2015). "No Salvation through Constitutions: Jasay versus Buchanan and Rawls." *The Independent Review*, 20 (1), 33-46.
- Bara, J. e M. Pennington (2009). *Comparative Politics: Explaining Democratic Systems*. London: Sage Publications.
- Lijphart, A. (1991). "Constitutional choices for New Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 2 (1), 72-84.
- Lohmann, S. (2003). "Why Do Institutions Matter? An Audience Cost Theory of Institutional Commitment." *Governance* 16, 1, 95-110.
- Norris, P. (2004). *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Norris, P. (2015). *Why Elections Fail*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Shugart, M. S. e J. M. Carey (1992). *Presidents and Assemblies. Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.