



Ano Académico 2024/2025 1º Semestre

Orlando Samões  
2º e 3º Ciclos

## **Institutions of Governance and Representation**

9 hours  
3 ECTS

### **Overview**

#### **I. Political Institutions**

- Methodology for Comparative Analysis
- Comparing between countries
- Conceptualizing political institutions and the development of comparative method

#### **II. The Importance of Institutions**

- Theories of Institutions and why they matter
- The origins of Institutions and institutional change
- Three 'Schools of Thought': Rational Choice, Cultural and Structural

#### **III. Rules and Institutionalism**

- Social normal, traditions, human conduct
- Cultural institutionalism, human action and interest groups
- Constitutionalism, unitary state, federations

#### **IV. Voting and Representation**

- Democracy patterns, turnout, participation
- Parties, partisanship, loyalty, identification and social cleavages
- Ethnic minorities and system support



**V. Electoral Systems and Representation**

- Majoritarian methods and proportional representation systems
- Mixed systems, transferable votes and degrees disproportionality
- Party competition and the party system

**VI. Executive-Legislative relations and Governance**

- Theorizing executives and legislatures
- Presidential, semi-presidential, cabinet, parliamentary systems
- Leadership, stability, balance of power and regime survival

**Bibliography**

Almon, Gabriel (1956), "Comparative Political Systems," *The Journal of Politics* 18 (3), pp. 391-409.

Bara, Judith and Mark Pennington (2009), *Comparative Politics: Explaining Democratic Systems*, London: Sage Publications.

Lijphart, Arend (1999), *Patterns of Democracy – Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Yale University Press.

Norris, Pippa (2004), *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*, Cambridge University Press.

**Assessment**

A 90 minutes long closed book final exam will account for 70% of the grade. A 20 minutes long presentation about a topic agreed with the instructor will account for 30% of the grade.