

# POLS 465: GLOBAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Spring 2023

---

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Neil S. Williams (he/him)	<b>Time:</b> M W F 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:shaun.williams@louisiana.edu">shaun.williams@louisiana.edu</a>	<b>Place:</b> Mouton Hall, Room 110

---

## Course Pages:

1. <http://www.neilswilliams.com/teaching.html>
2. <https://moodle.louisiana.edu/>
3. <https://www.perusall.com/>

**Student Hours:** 12:00-2:00pm Thursday in Mouton Hall 118, or by appointment.

## Required Texts:

- None

**Objectives:** This course will focus on political institutions and their effects on voters, political parties, the economy, policymaking, representation, and more. We will study political institutions comparatively, using countries as our units of analysis. In addition to a focus on electoral institutions, we will discuss presidentialism, parliamentarism, federalism, welfare institutions, and how institutions can be used to address historical inequalities. We will use the tools we acquire to better understand how government works across several countries. This course will also introduce students to the basics of social science research. Students should leave this course with greater familiarity in understanding and communicating social science research, as well as how to better analyze institutions on their own.

**Perusall:** All readings and lecture slides will be available on [Perusall](#). Perusall is a cool e-reader which allows for collaborative annotation of readings and videos with both me and your peers. Assignment due dates and reminders are also included in Perusall to help you keep track of readings. It is free to create an account. After you have done so, our course can be accessed by entering the code **WILLIAMS-7D9BB**.

**Important Dates:** Below are important test and due dates. Note that they, as well as everything else in the syllabus, may be changed as the semester continues. I will notify you in good time of any updates.

**First Half of Perusall Annotations due** ..... Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Project Proposal due** ..... Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Midterm Due** ..... Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Annotated Bibliography due** ..... Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Second Half of Perusall Annotations due** ..... Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
**Final Paper due** ..... Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.

## Grading

**Late work** will lose 10% off per day and I reserve the right to give a 0 after more than 3 days with no valid excuse.

- **Attendance: (5%)**
- **Participation: (20%)** Participation will be evaluated in multiple ways. Active participation implies paying attention in class, engagement with the material and with your fellow student colleagues. Please come prepared to class having read and willing to discuss the assigned material. Keep in mind these points as you read:
  1. What is the main point or argument?
  2. What evidence do they use to support their argument?
  3. Is there contradicting evidence?
  4. How does the author's argument relate to the other content from the course?

Participation will also be evaluated by your comments, annotations, and responses to the readings, videos, and content on Perusall. The **participation breakdown** is as follows:

- **In-class participation:(50%)**
- **Perusall annotations: (50%)**

- **Midterm: (25%)** The midterm exam will be delivered electronically and will cover content up until this point. Although this exam will be open-note and book, I **HIGHLY** recommend studying before-hand.
- **Final Research Project: (50%)**

The final project will encompass multiple parts over the course of the semester. The goal of this project is to research more deeply into a single topic in a particular context/contexts and examine its causes, effects, and specific details. Also, be creative and choose something that is of interest to you!

- **Project proposal: (10%)**: 1-2 page proposal of your project idea with a description of your main points.
- **Annotated Bibliography: (15%)**: 8-10 of your main **ACADEMIC** sources that will be used in your project. Include brief descriptions of the source's theory, methodology, and application to your argument and paper.
- **Research Paper: (75%)**: Research paper related to Global Political Institutions. The paper should cover or structure around the following pieces with regard to your topic:
  - \* Introduction
  - \* Background
  - \* Theory and Expectations
  - \* Method
  - \* Results
  - \* Conclusion/Discussion

**Grade Scale**

A		>= 90.00
B		80.00 - 89.99
C		70.00 - 79.99
D		60.00 - 69.99
F		<= 59.99

**Academic Honesty** *“The University holds that all work for which a student will receive a grade or credit shall be an original contribution or shall be properly documented to indicate sources. Abrogation of this principle entails dishonesty, defeats the purpose of instruction, and undermines the high goals of the University. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Students shall be assumed to know the acceptable methods and techniques for proper documentation of sources and to avoid cheating and plagiarism in all work submitted for credit, whether prepared in or out of class.”* (From [University of Louisiana Lafayette page on Academic Honesty.](#)) Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if discovered will be appropriately punished, including with the reserved right to give a 0 for the assignment(s). For more information about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or intellectual dishonesty, consult me or the university web page.

**Disability Resources:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 337-482-5252 or visit the ODS office in the Agnes Edwards Hall, room 126. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with their instructor to make appropriate arrangements for accommodations.

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources:**

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to visit the Counseling and Testing Center page with tips on the [Mental Health & Wellness Resources](#) page. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- Make sure to seek help when needed. FREE counseling is available to you at the University Counseling and Testing Center. For more information, please contact the office at 337-482-6480, [counseling@louisiana.edu](mailto:counseling@louisiana.edu), or stop by the Saucier Wellness Center (OK Allen Hall).

**Technology:** I permit laptops and other devices such as Kindles and iPads if they are being used for class-related purposes. If you are off-task (Facebook, Instagram, Myspace, Tik Tok, Neopets, Club Penguin, etc.) while on these devices, it will be deducted from your participation grade.

**Coronavirus Information for Students****Fall 2022 Overview****Vaccinations Required**

UL Lafayette students are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, a physician’s certification that the vaccine is medically contraindicated, or a written dissent. Learn more about the vaccination requirement.

---

Contact me in good time for deadlines on make-up work.

**Boosters are strongly encouraged.****Face masks recommended on campus**

The University's Face Covering Policy was recently amended to recommend, but not require, that everyone wear face coverings in all indoor settings and outdoors while on University property.

A department or unit may require all individuals wear face coverings over their mouths and noses if it is determined to be necessary during a specific face-to-face course, in a specific classroom, laboratory, and/or private office/workspace, or other areas.

Additional exemptions and face covering guidelines are outlined in the policy. [Read the Face Covering Policy](#) on the University Policies website.

Courses to return to original delivery methods, employees to return to normal work schedules

The transmission rate of COVID-19 remains high in the Acadiana region and throughout the state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health. However, the University is seeing a decline in positivity rates among its students and employees.

This decrease, combined with the University's comprehensive testing protocols, is enabling a return to normal course delivery methods and operations. Classes that transitioned to remote learning at the start of the spring semester will begin to transition back to their original course delivery methods beginning Monday, Feb. 7. All courses should have returned to their original modes of instruction by Monday, Feb. 21. Students should check Moodle and with their professors for more details regarding when their classes will transition back.

In-person student organization events, including meetings, socials, and service projects, will continue to be allowed on and off campus provided masks are worn and proper social distancing can be maintained. Additionally, intramural sports will resume.

**COVID-19 testing available on campus**

COVID testing is available by appointment at Student Health Services on campus.

See a [list of other local COVID-19 testing sites](#) from the Louisiana Department of Health.

**University's COVID-19 testing strategy** As of April 7, testing of asymptomatic University employees and students (regardless of vaccination status) is suspended.

**Stay home if you do not feel well.****Students**

Students who feel ill should stay home and call Student Health Services at (337) 482-1293 to schedule an appointment. Students are required to report illness or a known COVID-19 exposure [via the UL Lafayette Student Quarantine and Isolation form](#).

View pdfs of the CDC's latest quarantine and isolation guidelines and what to do if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

**Staff and Faculty Members**

As a reminder, staff and faculty members who test positive for COVID-19 must contact their supervisors and complete the COVID-19 positive test reporting form. Additionally, faculty and staff who

have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must complete the COVID-19 exposure reporting form.

Reporting forms must be completed by faculty and staff who work on campus or remotely, and by those who are on leave awaiting test results.

**Tentative Course Outline:****Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Week 1: Foundations of Institutions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Week 2: Democracy</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Week 3: Models of Democracy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Week 4: Parliamentary Democracy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Week 5: Presidential Systems</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Week 6: Federalism and Regional Authority</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Week 7: MARDI GRAS And Bicameralism</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Week 8: Elections &amp; Electoral Systems</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Week 9: Effects of Electoral Systems</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Week 10: Election Quality</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Week 11: Authoritarian Institutions</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Week 12: Social Assistance and State Institutions</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Week 13: Non-State Institutions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Week 14: SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Week 15: Engineering Equality I</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Week 16: Engineering Equality II &amp; Conclusions</b>	<b>14</b>

**Yellow** indicates important information.

## Week 1: Foundations of Institutions

*Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- Introductions
- Review Syllabus

*Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Arend Lijphart - Patterns of Democracy Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (2012, Yale University Press). Chapter 1.

## Week 2: Democracy

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- *Reminder*
  - **MLK DAY NO CLASS**

*Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Dahl, Robert Alan. 1973. Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition. Yale University Press. pg. 1-16.
  - “The U.S. Isn’t A Democracy”. 2022. *Al Jazeera*.

*Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Boese, Vanessa A. 2019. “How (not) to measure democracy.” *International Area Studies Review* 22(2): 95–127.
  - “How democratic is your country?”. 2019. *The Economist*.

---

Note that the schedule is tentative and can be changed.

## Week 3: Models of Democracy

*Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Arend Lijphart - Patterns of Democracy Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (2012, Yale University Press). Chapter 2.

*Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Arend Lijphart - Patterns of Democracy Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (2012, Yale University Press). Chapter 3.

*Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - “The Most Sacred Right”. 2020. *Throughline*.

## Week 4: Parliamentary Democracy

*Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Kaare Strom, Wolfgang C. Muller, Torbjorn Bergman - Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies (Comparative Politics) (2006). Chapter 1.

*Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - An introduction to Parliament
  - What is the House of Commons?
  - What is the House of Lords? Jump Start

*Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - How prime ministers choose their cabinet ministers. 2019. Power & Politics
  - Ariotti, M. H., and S. N. Golder. 2018. “Partisan portfolio allocation in African democracies.” *Comparative Political Studies*.



## Week 5: Presidential Systems

### *Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). Pg. 636-645.
  - **Optional:** Arend Lijphart - Patterns of Democracy Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (2012, Yale University Press. Chapter 7.

### *Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). Pg. 646-652.
  - **Optional** Duverger 1980 - A new political system model - semi-presidential government

### *Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Gerring, John, Strom C. Thacker, and Carola Moreno. 2009. “Are Parliamentary Systems Better?” *Comparative Political Studies* 42(3): 327–359.
  - **Optional:** Perils of Presidentialism
  - **Optional:** Cabinet Instability and Delegation in Parliamentary Democracies (2001)

## Week 6: Federalism and Regional Authority

### *Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Module 1:1 Dr. Jan Erk: The Promises of Federalism
  - Arend Lijphart - Patterns of Democracy Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (2012, Yale University Press). Chapter 10.

### *Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - The Rise of Regional Authority A Comparative Study of 42 Democracies (2010, Taylor Francis). Chapter 2.

### *Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Module 4.1 Dr. Jan Erk: Federalism in South Africa
  - Module 4.2 Dr. Jan Erk: Federalism in Ethiopia
  - Module 4.3 Dr. Jan Erk: Federalism in Nigeria

## Week 7: MARDI GRAS And Bicameralism

### Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- *Reminder*
  - MARDI GRAS NO CLASS

### Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

- *Reminder*
  - MARDI GRAS NO CLASS

### Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- *Before class*
  - Druckman, James N., and Michael F. Thies. 2002. “The Importance of Concurrence: The Impact of Bicameralism on Government Formation and Duration.” *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4): 760–771.

## Week 8: Elections & Electoral Systems

### Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- *Before class*
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). pg. 697-710.
  - “Which voting system is the best? - Alex Gendler”. 2020. *TED-Ed*.

### Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

- *Before class*
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). pg. 711-731.
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). pg. 732-737.

### Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

- *Before class*
  - Benoit, Kenneth. 2006. “Duverger’s Law and the Study of Electoral Systems.” *French Politics* 4(1): 69–83.
  - **Optional** Pippa Norris - Electoral Engineering Voting Rules and Political Behavior (2004, Cambridge University Press)

## Week 9: Effects of Electoral Systems

*Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Ruiz-Rufino, Rubén. 2012. “Satisfaction with Democracy in Multi-ethnic Countries: The Effect of Representative Political Institutions on Ethnic Minorities.” *Political Studies* 61(1): 101–118.
  - **Optional:** Kittilson, Miki Caul, and Leslie Schwindt-Bayer. 2010. “Engaging Citizens: The Role of Power-Sharing Institutions.” *Journal of Politics* 72(4): 990–1002.
- *Due*
  - Project proposal due
  - First set of Perusall annotations due
- *Distribute*
  - Midterm exam becomes available.

*Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Birch, Sarah. 2007. “Electoral Systems and Electoral Misconduct.” *Comparative Political Studies* 40(12): 1533–1556.

*Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Reminders*
  - MIDTERM STUDY DAY–NO CLASS

## Week 10: Election Quality

*Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Norris, Pippa, Richard W. Frank, and Ferran Martínez i. Coma. 2013. “Assessing the Quality of Elections.” *Journal of Democracy* 24(4): 124–135.

*Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Impact of EU Election Observation Missions
  - Carter Center Election Monitoring
  - **Optional:** Hyde, Susan D., and Nikolay Marinov. 2014. “Information and Self-Enforcing Democracy: The Role of International Election Observation.” *International Organization* 68(2): 329–359.

- *Due:*
  - Midterm due

### *Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Norris Electoral Integrity in the 2020 Elections
  - If America Were in Africa, U.S. Diplomats Would Be Ringing the Alarm Bells. 2020. *Foreign Affairs*.
  - **Optional:** About that bogus claim that North Carolina is no longer a democracy . . . — Statistical Modeling, Causal Inference, and Social Science

## Week 11: Authoritarian Institutions

### *Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - William Roberts Clark Matt Golder - Principles of Comparative Politics (2017, CQ Press). pg. 462-495.

### *Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Jennifer Gandhi - Political Institutions under Dictatorship (2008). pg. 73-106.

### *Friday, March 24<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Jennifer Gandhi - Political Institutions under Dictatorship (2008). pg. 42-72.

## Week 12: Social Assistance and State Institutions

### *Monday, March 27<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Duncan Gallie, Anton Hemerijk, John Myers - Why We Need a New Welfare State (2002, Oxford University Press, USA). pg. 32-56.
  - **Optional:** Diane Sainsbury - Gender, Equality and Welfare States (1996). pg. 21-46.

### *Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Diane Sainsbury - Gender, Equality and Welfare States (1996). pg. 47-60.

- **Optional:** Code Switch: The Original 'Welfare Queen'.

### **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

- *Before class*
  - Hunter, Wendy, and Natasha Borges Sugiyama. 2014. “Transforming subjects into citizens: Insights from Brazil’s Bolsa Família.” *Perspectives on Politics* 12(4): 829–845.
  - NC Reports on the official launch of the unconditional cash transfer project in Kano Nigeria
  - Watch the Ebonyi State Unconditional Cash Transfer Project beneficiaries share their stories

## **Week 13: Non-State Institutions**

### **Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

- *Before class*
  - Cammett, Melani Claire, and Lauren M. MacLean. 2011. “Introduction: The political consequences of non-state social welfare in the global south.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 46(1): 1–21.

### **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- *Before class*
  - Baylouny, A. M. 2020. “Authority outside the state: Non-state actors and new institutions in the middle east.” In *Ungoverned Spaces*, Stanford University Press, p. 136–152.

### **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- *Reminders*
  - **SPRING BREAK–NO CLASS**

## **Week 14: SPRING BREAK–NO CLASS**

### **Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- *Reminders*
  - **BREAK–NO CLASS**

### **Wednesday, April 12<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

- *Reminders*
  - **BREAK–NO CLASS**

### **Friday, April 14<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

- *Reminders*
  - **BREAK–NO CLASS**

## Week 15: Engineering Equality I

*Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Shane P. Singh - Beyond Turnout How Compulsory Voting Shapes Citizens and Political Parties (2021, Oxford University Press). Chapter 1.

*Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Gender Quotas International IDEA
  - Weeks, Ana Catalano. 2018. “Why Are Gender Quota Laws Adopted by Men? The Role of Inter- and Intraparty Competition.” *Comparative Political Studies* 51(14): 1935–1973.

*Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Bauer, Gretchen, and Jennie E. Burnet. 2013. “Gender quotas, democracy, and women’s representation in Africa: Some insights from democratic Botswana and autocratic Rwanda.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 41: 103–112.

## Week 16: Engineering Equality II & Conclusions

*Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Burundi vote: Political campaigns end ahead of elections. 2020. *Al Jazeera*.
  - Bird, Karen. 2014. “Ethnic quotas and ethnic representation worldwide.” *International Political Science Review* 35(1): 12–26.

*Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Before class*
  - Gender equality and indigenous rights. 2018. *UNICEF Bolivia*.
  - Htun, M., and J. P. Ossa. 2013. “Political inclusion of marginalized groups: indigenous reservations and gender parity in Bolivia.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.
  - **Optional:** Response to Courtney Jung’s review of Inclusion without Representation in Latin America Gender Quotas and Ethnic Reservations (2017)

*Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

- *Reminder*
  - Discuss final paper
  - Conclusions

**Remember: Final paper due Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.**