

Professor Matthew Bergman

DOPP5307: Public Policy and Party Politics (Winter 2022)

Democratic Institutional Design II

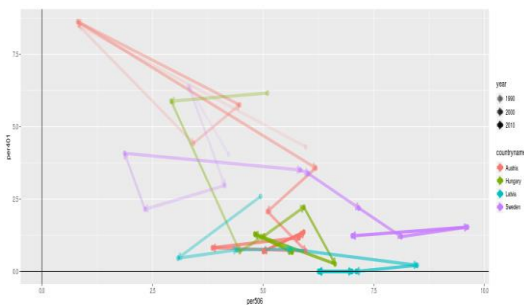
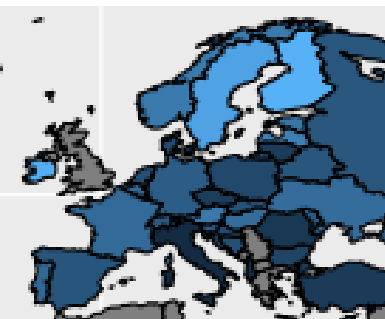
Tuesdays: 1330-1510

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to link public policies and policy-making processes to party politics and other actors that shape the making of public policies. Following from DID I, which discussed political institutions, here the focus is on policy differences between countries and over time. The course takes a comparative angle and will look at how party politics and diverging political ideologies influence and shape public policies. Within the framework of this seminar, we will discuss whether and why governments respond differently to essentially similar policy problems and economic challenges (e.g. unemployment, financial crisis, globalization, immigration, etc.). We will also look into how and whether the relationship between party politics and policies has evolved and changed over time and assess the question whether the great recession has led to a new style in policy-making and governance. The course draws on a large literature that is situated at the intersection between party politics, political economy and comparative politics. Scholarly articles are at the heart of the core readings for each class. These research driven papers are complemented by ‘popular readings’ and ‘real world’ examples. In addition to discussing the proposed linkages between political parties and policies, we will also look into how researchers operationalize core concepts and how ideology, policy positions, and partisan impact on policy can be measured.

Learning Outcomes:

- Have a critical understanding of core political science theories relating to partisanship and policy outcomes
- Have an understanding of the defining characteristics of a public policy regimes contemporary democracies
- Have a well-developed knowledge of the empirical literature that applies and tests these theories and concepts
- Know sources of information as it relates to political parties and policy outcomes



E-Mail/Course Discussion Forum:

1. Before e-mailing Professor about any assignment, course expectation, or general question, please check the Course Discussion Forum.
2. I encourage such questions to be posted in the forum, they will be answered within 24 hours
3. If a question is inappropriate for the forum, e-mail me directly

Final Grades will be assigned by the following formula; You are responsible for ensuring your grades are accurately reported. I reserve the right to up-grade to account for either exceptionally high or low performance on an assignment or for greater participation than required:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	96% or more	C+	77%-80%
A	92%-96%	C	73%-77%
A-	90%-92%	C-	70%-73%
B+	87%-90%	D	65%-70%
B	83%-87%	F	0%-59%
B-	80%-83%		

Course Requirements/Grading:

For each session, you are expected to come prepared with a critical understanding of the readings (you do not need to understand the quantitative methods and can skim those portions). Readings have been kept to a minimum in order to have an in-depth discussion of the subject during the seminar. For all assignments a rubric will be provided.

- Active Participation (20%) – Before each session, you are required to submit two questions, observations, or comments related to the readings on the course webpage. These questions will help the professor/students in charge of the discussion to structure it and highlight key issues. Ideally, these would be submitted the Sunday before the course or Monday AM to allow for incorporation into discussion on Tuesday. Example submissions would include:
 - questions of a clarifying nature
 - additional examples or more current events not included in the text
 - a question for discussion that
 - relates to a particular passage
 - makes connections between a reading and other readings, other weeks, or themes of the course
 - is a controversial way of framing the author’s argument or intent
 - tries to imagine a hypothetical situation and asks ‘what if?’

- Preparation of in-class discussion/presentation based on readings and peer questions (20%) – In one session, you will be responsible to **organize and lead the discussion** on one of the readings. You can choose to work together with others presenting that week or work independently. You can also prepare presentation slides to help you if you desire. An ideal discussion would include:
 - (a) a summary of your reading;
 - (b) key arguments/theories/take-aways;
 - (c) critical observations/remarks you have related to the reading or connecting it to overall topic/other readings; is the theory flawed? Is the method flawed?
 - (d) How would you improve/expand upon the reading? Can it be linked to current events anywhere (or events after the date of publication)?
 - (e) What the is datasource used by the reading (is it available online? What does it look like? This is to share with everyone to potentially help them with their own future research/career)
 - (f) Some form of discussion with the class; you can make use of the questions/comments from your peers

- Preparation/presentation of data-report and indented paper topic (20%) – Due April 12th
 - In a two-page introduction, you will write a **short-proposal** for what you plan your final paper to be on. In this document, you will introduce the general topic or topics you are going to study, which specific research question/claim will you be investigating, a brief literature review, and how you will test your research question with data (which methods).
 - You will also demonstrate that you have already identified **datasource(s)** that you will be using for your final assignment and present what this data looks like (e.g. summary statistics, distribution plots, etc.)
 - Rubrics and examples will be provided
 - This assignment can be completed at any time either via upload or a virtual presentation
 - You need not write a paper on the topic on which you presented

- Final Paper (40%) – Due April 26th
 - The final paper should be around 3,000 words and critically examine a **specific argument** based on course themes.
 - Sample arguments might be whether theories covered in the course are supported by updated data or in (a) different country(ies) {case study, comparative case study, cross-national}. You can also examine an extension of an existing theory, something that came up during course discussion, or test an assumption that existing theories have. Additionally if you develop a novel hypothesis that you might want to explore more deeply in future research, you can do a preliminary analysis of that for this course.
 - You can use data identified in the course or another dataset of your finding/creation.
 - A rubric will be provided and a variety of datasets will be provided

Readings – course readings are subject to change depending on the number of students in the course, student interest, and whether more updated sources become available; additional popular/media readings will be made available on the course website (or submitted by other students)

I. Jan 11th Course overview & Political Ideologies

Selected portions of *Political Ideologies*, by Andrew Heywood on liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and fascism

II. Jan 18th Do parties matter for public policy?

1. Verma, M. L. (2000). Do political parties matter to public policies? Evidence from select European Countries. *Sociological bulletin*, 49(2), 229-252.
2. Schmidt, M. G. (1996). When parties matter: A review of the possibilities and limits of partisan influence on public policy. *European journal of political research*, 30(2), 155-183.
3. Schneider, Ondrej, Partisan Fiscal Policy: Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe (2019). CESifo Working Paper No. 8014, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3518962>

III. Jan 25th Social Policy/Worlds of Welfare

1. Pontusson, J. (2006). *Inequality and prosperity*. Cornell University Press. Chapter 7: Welfare States, Redistribution, and Growth
2. Fenger, M. (2007). Welfare regimes in Central and Eastern Europe: Incorporating post-communist countries in a welfare regime typology. *Contemporary issues and ideas in social sciences*, 3(2), 1-30.
3. Swank, D. (2020). The partisan politics of new social risks in advanced postindustrial democracies: Social protection for labor market outsiders. In *The European Social Model under Pressure* (pp. 139-157). Springer VS, Wiesbaden.

IV. Feb 1th Health Policy

1. Jensen, C. (2011). Marketization via compensation: health care and the politics of the right in advanced industrialized nations. *British Journal of Political Science*, 41(4), 907-926.
2. Bellido, H., Olmos, L., & Román-Aso, J. A. (2019). Do political factors influence public health expenditures? Evidence pre-and post-great recession. *The European Journal of Health Economics*, 20(3), 455-474.
3. Roberts, A. (2009). The politics of healthcare reform in postcommunist Europe: the importance of access. *Journal of Public Policy*, 29(3), 305-325.

V. Feb 8th Family Policy

1. Kenworthy, L. (2008) *Jobs with Equality*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 10: Women-friendly policies
2. Schwander, H., Manow, P., & Palier, B. (2018). Electoral demand, party competition, and family policy: The politics of a new policy field. *Welfare Democracies and Party Politics: Explaining Electoral Dynamics in Times of Changing Welfare Capitalism*, 197.
3. Ennser-Jedenastik, L. (2021). The impact of radical right parties on family benefits. *West European Politics*, 1-23.

VI. Feb 15nd Economic Policy/Varieties of Capitalism

1. Pontusson, J. (2006). *Inequality and prosperity*. Cornell University Press. Chapter 2: Varieties of Capitalism
2. Knell M., Srholec M. (2007) *Diverging Pathways in Central and Eastern Europe*. In: Lane D., Myant M. (eds) *Varieties of Capitalism in Post-Communist Countries*. Studies in Economic Transition. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
3. Crowley, S., & Stanojević, M. (2011). Varieties of capitalism, power resources, and historical legacies: Explaining the Slovenian exception. *Politics & Society*, 39(2), 268-295.

VII. Feb 22nd Labor Policies

1. Voigt, L., & Zohlnhöfer, R. (2020). Quiet politics of employment protection legislation? Partisan politics, electoral competition, and the regulatory welfare state. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 691(1), 206-222.
2. Klitgaard, M. B., Schumacher, G., & Soentken, M. (2015). The partisan politics of institutional welfare state reform. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(7), 948-966.
3. Cronert, A. (2019). Unemployment reduction or labor force expansion? How partisanship matters for the design of active labor market policy in Europe. *Socio-Economic Review*, 17(4), 921-946.

VIII. Mar 1th Education Policy

1. Busemeyer, M. R. (2015). Theoretical framework: Partisan politics in context. *Skills and Inequality: Partisan Politics and the Political Economy of Education Reforms in Western Welfare States*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 29-57.
2. Iversen, T., & Stephens, J. D. (2008). Partisan politics, the welfare state, and three worlds of human capital formation. *Comparative political studies*, 41(4-5), 600-637.
3. Busemeyer, M. R. (2009). Social democrats and the new partisan politics of public investment in education. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 16(1), 107-126.

IX. Mar 8th Immigration Policy

1. Givens, T., & Luedtke, A. (2005). European immigration policies in comparative perspective: Issue salience, partisanship and immigrant rights. *Comparative European Politics*, 3(1), 1-22.
2. Akkerman, T. (2012). Comparing radical right parties in government: Immigration and integration policies in nine countries (1996–2010). *West European Politics*, 35(3), 511-529.
3. Akkerman, T. (2015). Immigration policy and electoral competition in Western Europe: A fine-grained analysis of party positions over the past two decades. *Party Politics*, 21(1), 54-67.

X. Mar 15nd Reactions to Austerity

1. Iversen, T., & Wren, A. (1998). Equality, employment, and budgetary restraint: the trilemma of the service economy. *World politics*, 50(4), 507-546.
2. Bandau, F., & Ahrens, L. (2020). The impact of partisanship in the era of retrenchment: Insights from quantitative welfare state research. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 30(1), 34-47.
3. Savage, L. (2019). The politics of social spending after the great recession: The return of partisan policy making. *Governance*, 32(1), 123-141.

XI. March 22nd Reactions to Economic Crises

1. Starke, P., Kaasch, A., & Van Hooren, F. (2014). Political parties and social policy responses to global economic crises: Constrained partisanship in mature welfare states. *Journal of Social Policy*, 43(2), 225-246.
2. Shahidi, F. V. (2015). Welfare capitalism in crisis: a qualitative comparative analysis of labour market policy responses to the Great Recession. *Journal of Social Policy*, 44(4), 659-686.
3. Varga, M. (2015). Trade unions and austerity in Central and Eastern Europe: did they do something about it?. *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 21(3), 313-326.

XII. Mar 29th COVID-responses

1. Sarah Engler, Palmo Brunner, Romane Loviat, Tarik Abou-Chadi, Lucas Leemann, Andreas Glaser & Daniel Kübler (2021): "Democracy in times of the pandemic: explaining the variation of COVID-19 policies across European democracies", *West European Politics*
2. Additional Readings to be determined

Paper-Topic Idea and Data Presentation Submitted April 12th

Final Paper Due April 26th

Grades Submitted May 9th