
Regime Types or: How to Become a Successful Ruler

Universität Greifswald - SoSe21 - Wednesday 4.15-5.45pm

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 9.30-12am - ELP 3.41

1 Abstract

This seminar deals with the analysis of different regime types and governmental systems and what theoretical and quantitative effects they may have.

First, different types of democracy are examined, for example parliamentary vs. presidential systems, different electoral systems and multi-level governance. Here, the different actors and institutions as well as their role will be discussed. An important part will be potential consequences, where we will read scientific papers to gain an understanding not only of the content, but of political research in general. Important aspects include the effects on the economy, social groups, electoral behaviour, the party landscape and government formation. Finally, democracy is contrasted with dictatorship and different types of authoritarian regime are analysed. We will have a look at strategies for dictators to stay in power and what factors influence the probability of coups or democratisation. In addition, and long-term effects of previous systems, especially in post-communist states, will be discussed.

2 Course Requirements

Please be aware that all five requirements need to be fulfilled in order to pass the course. If you decide to drop the course, please let me know. Also remember to inform the other members of your group for the presentation.

2.1 Readings

Each week, there will be a short reading, which is necessary to follow the course. The mandatory reading is marked by *, whereas the second reading is not compulsory and will be discussed in the presentation.

2.2 Group Presentation

You will have to give a presentation on an assigned text. The presentation should last **10-15 minutes**. You may present in groups of 2-3. Although you can focus on the content of the article, one slide should contain the statistical model, so we can talk about it afterwards. You are very welcome to include discussion questions, examples, or comparisons to other seminars or literature you may know of.

2.3 Summary of Dataset

This short exercise is really just for you. You will get a dataset assigned where you will have to fill in a table with the most important information, such as access, variables and time frame. In the end, we will have a big table with the most commonly used datasets in political science, which will help you for this term paper as well as future research. Deadline is **25th of May**.

2.4 Proposal for Seminar Paper

You will have to submit a proposal with your research question and a summary of 1-2 pages to me by **22nd of June**. Then, you will have to **critically comment** on a colleague's proposal within 7 days. You will receive a colleague's feedback plus my own that you can base your seminar paper on. No specific format or literature is required.

2.5 Seminar Paper

In the end, you will have to write a seminar paper answering a research question of your choice. About **7-10 pages** are required. The paper needs to address the research question in an empirical way, which means using a (bivariate or multivariate) **regression** using Stata or R. However, the empirical results do not influence the grade! Deadline is **August 31st**.

You are encouraged to come talk to me about your research question or any problems you may encounter. Further details on how to write a seminar paper will be discussed during the course.

3 Course Structure

1 Introduction (7th April)

2 Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems (14th April)

Linz, Juan (1990): The Perils of Presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69. *

Hiroi, Taeko and Sawa Omori (2009): Perils of Parliamentarism? Political Systems and the Stability of Democracy Revisited. *Democratization* 16(3): 485-507.

3 Electoral Systems (21st April)

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair (2011): "Elections, Electoral systems, and Referendums." in: Gallagher et al. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. McGraw-Hill: 340-371. *

Boix, Charles (1999): Setting the Rules of the Game. The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies. *The American Political Science Review* 93(3): 609-624.

4 Political Parties (28th April)

Dalton, Russel J. (2008): The Quantity and the Quality of Party Systems. Party System Polarization, Its Measurement, and Its Consequences. *Comparative Political Studies* 41(7): 899-920. *

Marks, Gary, Liesbet Hooghe, Moira Nelson and Erica Edwards (2006): Party Competition and European Integration in the East and West. Different Structure, Same Causality. *Comparative Political Studies* 39(2): 155-175.

5 Governments and Government Formation (5th May)

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair (2011): "Building and Maintaining a Government." in: Gallagher et al. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. McGraw-Hill: 381-419. *

Bäck, Hanna, Marc Debus and Patrick Dumont (2011): Who gets what in Coalition Governments? Predictors of Portfolio Allocation in Parliamentary Democracies. *European Journal of Political research* 50: 441-478.

6 Economic Voting (12th May)

Guntermann, Eric, Gabriel S. Lenz and Jeffrey R. Myers (2021): The Impact of the Economy on Presidential Elections Throughout US History. *Political Behavior*: 1-21. *

Anderson, Christopher (2000): Economic Voting and Political Context. A Comparative Perspective. *Electoral Studies* 19: 151-170.

7 Federal vs. Unitary Systems (19th May)

Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair (2011): "Levels of Governance. Part II." in: Gallagher et al. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. McGraw-Hill: 164-185. *

Büthe, Tim, Joan Barceló, Cindy Cheng, Paula Ganga, Luca Messerschmidt, Allison Hartnett and Robert Kubinec (2020): Patterns of Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Federal vs. Unitary European Democracies. *Paper for 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*: version 1.1.

8 Multi-Level Governance (26th May)

Bale, Tim (2005): "Europe. A Continent in the Making." in: Tim Bale. *European Politics. A Comparative Introduction*. Macmillan: 1-31. *

Gross, Martin and Marc Debus (2018): Does EU regional policy increases parties' support for EU integration? *West European Politics* 41(3): 594-614.

9 History Matters. Post-Communism (2nd June)

Wallace, Caire, Florian Pichler and Christian Haerpfer (2012): Changing Patterns of Civil Society in Europe and America 1995-2005. Is Eastern Europe Different? *East European Politics and Societies* 28(1): 3-19. *

Tavits, Margit, and Natalia Letki (2009): When Left is Right. Party Ideology and Policy in Post-Communist Europe. *American Political Science Review* 103(4): 555-569.

10 Dictatorships. Differences and Consequences (9th June)

Svolik, Milan (2012): *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2. *

Svolik, Milan (2012): *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4.

11 Transitions I. Coups (16th June)

Svolik, Milan (2009): Power Sharing and Leadership Dynamics in Authoritarian Regimes. *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2): 477-494. *

Powell, Jonathan (2012): Determinants of the Attempting and Outcome of Coups d'état. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56(6): 1017-1040.

12 Transitions II. Democratisation (23rd June)

Olson, Mancur (1965): *The Logic of Collective Action. Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Harvard University Press. Introduction + Chapter 1. *

Gorodnichenko, Yuriy and Gerard Roland (2020): Culture, Institutions and Democratization. *Public Choice*.

13 Democracy vs. Dictatorships (30th June)

Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi (1997): Political Regimes and Economic Growth. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7(3): 51-69. *

Ross, Michael (2006): Is Democracy Good for the Poor? *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874.

14 Discussion of Term Papers and Semester Wrap-up (7th July)

Guideline for Writing an Empirical Seminar Paper.

4 Stata Help

Kohler, Ulrich and Frauke Kreuter (2012). *Data Analysis Using Stata* De Gruyter.

Stata Tutorial Germán Rodríguez (<http://data.princeton.edu/stata/>)

idre UCLA (<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/>)

Stata Help Desk on Moodle