

Otto-Friedrich University of Bamberg

Professur für Politikwissenschaft,
insb. international vergleichende Politikfeldanalyse

Course: **Institutions, Interests and Ideas**

Semester: Winter Term 2013/14

Class Time and Room Number: **Thursday 2.15 - 3.45 pm, F21/02.31**



Course Lecturer: Valeska Gerstung

Email: valeska.gerstung@uni-bamberg.de

Phone: (0951) 863 - 2734

Office Hours: Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00 pm, Room: F21/03.24a

Assessment Requirements: regular course attendance, reading the compulsory readings, one session as “text expert”, paper

ECTS points: 6

Registration: FlexNow

Course Description

Institutions are a central unit of investigation in policy analysis. On the one hand, they enable, constrain and shape human behaviour and interaction. On the other hand, institutions are creations of man which can be transformed by politics. Two questions follow this observation: First, how do institutions influence interests and ideas? Second, how do interests and ideas shape and change institutions?

This course is designed to analyze the interplay between institutions, interests and ideas. Students will be provided with knowledge of concepts and analytical frameworks to study this relationship. The course is divided into three sections. The first part introduces different types of institutionalist theory and concepts of institutional change. The second section discusses the relationship between institutions, interests and ideas with the objective to understand how they interact. In the third part of the class, students examine selected case studies which investigate empirically the effect of interests and ideas on institutions. The focus of these case studies is on economic and social policy or rather on institutions in these policy fields.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation: For inspiring and fruitful discussions in class, the course requires a high level of class participation. Therefore I encourage your active participation in creating an exciting learning experience for all of us. Students who miss more than three classes or who do not participate in discussions are obliged to write summaries about the readings of the classes they missed.
2. Text presentation: All students have to choose one class for which they prepare to be “text experts”. (This does not mean the fellow students do not have to read the text!) Text experts are asked to read the text especially intense in order to be prepared to answer questions regarding scientific objective of the text, structure, methodology, theory and findings. Furthermore text experts have to think about questions and hypotheses to guide the discussion in class.

3. Paper: Each of you will write a 13-15 page paper (using 1.5 spacing, type size 11 or 12) in which you have to formulate a research question that is connected to the topic of the course. Research question, research objective, methods and structure need to be discussed in my office hours. The deadline for submitting the papers is 31th March, 2014. Please do not ask to turn in assignments late unless you are ill. If you are ill and cannot turn in an assignment on time, please call me at my office or write an email. Unless excused by illness, assignments turned in late will be graded 0,3 grade points less for each day of delay. Please note that you have to stick to the rules of scientific work and academic integrity! Therefore you have to be very careful to acknowledge all materials (books, articles, interviews etc.) which are not your own ideas and give sufficient reference for your reader to locate the original source.

Course Schedule

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| 01. | 17.10.13 | Course overview, assignment of presentation topics

<u>Institutionalism</u> |
| 02. | 24.10.13 | Three New Institutionalisms (<i>Hall/ Taylor 1996</i>) |
| 03. | 31.10.13 | The theoretical core of New Institutionalism (<i>Immergut 1998</i>) |
| 04. | 07.11.13 | Historical Institutionalism (<i>Steinmo 2008</i>) |
| 05. | 14.11.13 | Institutional change (<i>Mahoney/ Thelen 2010</i>)

<u>Relationship between institutions, interests and ideas</u> |
| 06. | 21.11.13 | Institutional analysis and the role of ideas in political economy (<i>Campbell 1998</i>) |
| 07. | 28.11.13 | Interests, institutions and ideas in comparative political economy (<i>Hall 2012</i>) |
| 08. | 05.12.13 | Ideas, institutions, and policy change (<i>Beland 2009</i>) |
| 09. | 12.12.13 | Institutions, veto points and policy results (<i>Immergut 1990</i>)

<u>Case studies</u> |
| 10. | 19.12.13 | Policy paradigms, social learning, and the state: economic policymaking in Britain (<i>Hall 1993</i>)

26.12.13 and 02.01.14 no class (Christmas holidays) |
| 11. | 09.01.14 | Political and institutional determinants of social legislation (<i>Immergut 2010</i>) |
| 12. | 16.01.14 | Ideas and institutional change in social security (<i>Beland 2007</i>) |

13. 23.01.14 Politics of social policy retrenchment in the United States
(*Hacker 2004*)
14. 30.01.14 How new economic ideas changed the Danish welfare state
(*Larsen 2009*)
15. 06.02.14 Course evaluation and hints for scientific work in research papers

Literature

Béland, Daniel 2007: Ideas and Institutional Change in Social Security: Conversion, Layering, and Policy Drift. In: *Social Science Quarterly*, Vol. 88, No.1, p. 20-38.

Béland, Daniel 2009: Ideas, institutions, and policy change. In: *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 16, No. 5, p. 701-718.

Campbell, John 1998: Institutional analysis and the role of ideas in political economy. In: *Theory and Society*, No. 27, p. 377-409.

Hacker, Jacob 2004: Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States. In: *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98, No. 2, p. 243-260.

Hall, Peter 1993: Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain. In: *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 25, No. 3, p. 275-296.

Hall, Peter/ Taylor, Rosemary 1996: Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. In: *Political Studies*, XLIV, p. 936-957.

Immergut, Ellen 1990: Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care. In: *Journal of Public Policy*, Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 391-416.

Immergut, Ellen 1998: The Theoretical of the New Institutionalism. In: *Politics & Society*, Vol. 26, No. 1, p. 5-34.

Immergut, Ellen M./ Abou-Chadi, Tarik 2010: Political and Institutional Determinants of Social Legislation. The Role of Veto Points, Veto Players, and Electoral Pressure. BGSS Working Paper No. 3, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt-University Berlin.

Larsen, Christian A./ Andersen, Jørgen G. 2009: How New Economic Ideas Changed the Danish Welfare State: The Case of Neoliberal Ideas and Highly Organized Social Democratic Interests. In: *An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*, Vol. 22, No. 2, p. 239-261.

Mahoney, James/ Thelen, Kathleen 2010: Explaining Institutional Change. Ambiguity, Agency and Power. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK.

Peters, B. Guy 2005: *Institutional Theory in Political Science. The “New Institutionalism”*. Continuum, London.

Steinmo, Sven 2008: *What is Historical Institutionalism?* In: Della Porta, Donatella/ Keating, Michael (ed): *Approaches in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK, p. 150-178.