

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Korea University

Program(s)

Korea University

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

50

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICAL INSTITUTI

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course examines comparative political theories about political institutions and the characteristics of each type of institution. The main topics covered in the course are the presidential system, the parliamentary cabinet system, and the mixed system, as well as the working mechanisms of various electoral systems and their political impact.

This course surveys political institutions—the “rules of the game”—in various democracies around the world. An institution is a set of incentives/constraints that affect actors’ preferences and choices. In order to investigate political behaviors and outcomes, it is essential to understand the effects of institutions.

The course first introduces students to scientific approaches to analyzing the consequences of institutions. Then, we discuss constitutional designs to solve the principal-agent (delegation) problem in representative democracies. Next, we compare the varying effects of different political institutions, including parliamentarism versus presidentialism, federalism versus unitary government, majoritarian electoral system versus proportional representation, two-party versus multiparty systems, unicameralism versus bicameralism, direct versus representative democracy, and majoritarian versus consociational government. We also consider institutions in dictatorships. Finally, given the consequences of institutions, we deliberate over the origin or the choice of institutions.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

POLI247

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Host Institution Course Details

<https://sugang.korea.ac.kr/>

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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