This course will examine theoretical and empirical research on executives and legislatures, and their interrelations, quite broadly and from a comparative viewpoint. We will juxtapose the American “separated system” with semi-presidential systems such as France in the Fifth Republic and post-communist Russia, as well as with Westminster-style parliamentary systems such as the UK and Canada. We will compare cases of “divided government,” broadly conceptualized, to include coalition and minority governments in parliamentary democracies. We will explore cabinet formation, executive advisory structures, prime ministerial functions and politics (e.g., policy leadership, media relations, etc.), the “presidentialisation” thesis about the British premiership, and government termination and parliamentary control.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and actively participate in weekly discussions. Attendance and participation will comprise 25% of the course grade.

The other 75% of the course grade will constitute a research paper of approximately 15-25 pages in length (journal length). The paper should represent an endeavour, which, fully developed through additional research an analysis, could be worthy of a conference presentation or a journal submission. Students are expected to theorize about a particular aspect of executive-legislative relations (single case or cross-comparisons are acceptable) and set forth a substantive question or problem, a hypothesis or set of hypotheses, and a methodological approach suitable to the question of inquiry. Students are encouraged to collect relevant data and undertake empirical analysis, as appropriate to the focus of their research, using the various frameworks in the course readings and discussions as a springboard.

A preliminary outline of the paper (5-8 pp.) will be due mid-semester. Date TBA.
Readings Schedule

January 4 – Course Introduction

January 11 – Comparing Constitutional Designs


January 18 – The U.S. Presidency & Executive-Legislative Relations

• James Madison, Federalist Nos. 47 & 48, in Lijphart (#3).
• Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 70, in Lijphart (#4).
• Harold J. Laski, “The President and Congress,” in Lijphart (#8).
• Juan J. Linz, “The Virtues of Parliamentarism,” in Lijphart (#31).
• Fred W. Riggs, “Presidentialism: A Problematic Regime Type,” in Lijphart (#32).

January 25 – Parliamentary Systems: Some Approaches

• Kaare Strøm, “Minority Governments in Parliamentary Democracies,” *Comparative Political Studies* 17 (2) 1984: 229-64.
February 1 – Executives, Legislatures, and Governance in Anglo-American Systems

• Colin Campbell, *The U.S. Presidency in Crisis: A Comparative Perspective.*

February 8 – Conceptualizing ‘Divided Government’

• Robert Elgie, ed., *Divided Government in Comparative Perspective.*

February 15 – Semi-Presidential Systems and the Dual Executive: France

• David S. Bell, *Presidential Power in Fifth Republic France.*

February 22 – Semi-Presidential Systems and the Dual Executive: Russia

• Eugene Huskey, *Presidential Power in Russia.*

March 1 – no class; Spring Break

March 8 – Historical and Modern Perspectives on Presidential and Prime Ministerial Leadership in Anglo Systems


March 15 – “Going Public” Compared: The British Prime Minister

• Michael Foley, *The British Presidency: Tony Blair and the Politics of Public Leadership.*
• Samuel Kernell, *Going Public* (recommended).

March 22 – Governing and Policy-Making: The British Prime Minister

• Graham P. Thomas, *Prime Minister and Cabinet Today.*
March 29 – Governing in a Global Context: The British Prime Minister

• Richard Rose, *The Prime Minister in a Shrinking World*.

April 5 – Presidentialism in Eastern European and Latin American Settings

• Scott Mainwaring, “Presidentialism in Latin America,” in Lijphart (#13).
• Harry Kantor, “Efforts Made by Various Latin American Countries to Limit the Power of the President,” in Lijphart (#12).
• Carlos Santiago Nino, “Ideas and Attempts at Reforming the Presidentialist System of Government in Latin America,” in Lijphart (#15).

April 12 – Roundtable Discussion and Presentation of Research Papers

April 19 – Roundtable Discussion and Presentation of Research Papers
**Required Books**


**Recommended**

(chapters will be available on reserve from Professor Conley)