

## **POSC 360 Comparative Political Institutions**

Spring Semester 2017

Professor Tyson Roberts

### Course Description:

What are the essential differences between dictatorships and democracies, and how do we explain the variety of forms of democracies and authoritarian governments? This course surveys the political institutions literature from a comparative perspective, and offers students the opportunity to apply these concepts to modern cases in comparative analysis. Students will learn about the relevant theories and empirical patterns regarding the causes and the consequences of institutional arrangements in both democracies and authoritarian systems. Topics include democratic and nondemocratic regime types, party systems and electoral systems, federalism, and informal institutions such as clientelism.

**Professor Tyson Roberts** studies comparative politics and international political economy, with an emphasis on how international financial flows interact with political and economic development in developing countries. One of his current research projects examines the determinants of executive selection rules in authoritarian regimes, and how these institutions influence outcomes such as regime stability, military coups, and economic growth. His research has been published in academic journals, such as *Comparative Political Studies* and *Electoral Studies*, and in academic blogs such as the Washington Post's Monkey Cage. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from UCLA and has taught comparative politics and international relations courses at Princeton University, UCLA, and UC Irvine.