Fall 2019
SEMINAR
LAW B592/POLS Y673/SPEA P710

Institutional Theory

Mondays, 2:00-4:10pm
Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park Ave. Tocqueville Room, 1st Floor

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Formal institutions (e.g., laws) and organizations (e.g., courts, firms) and informal institutions (e.g., norms) are important determinants of individual and group decisions and behaviors. Individual and group decisions and behaviors, in turn, create and change formal and informal institutions and organizations. In this seminar, we will review, discuss, and compare some important analytical approaches to understanding these interrelationships between institutions and behaviors. One of those approaches has been named the Institutional and Organizational Analysis (IOA) framework and is associated with a body of theory and research known as New Institutional Economics. The other is the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework associated with the Ostrom Workshop at IU and what is sometimes called the “Bloomington School.” Each of these frameworks has been developed for the purpose of aiding theory and research on how organizations and institutions (including laws, rights, and other rule-governed relationships) develop and change, and how organizations and institutions shape individuals’ choices and actions at the micro scale and the paths of social and economic development at the macro scale.

COURSE DESIGN AND BASIC WORKPLAN

The central idea of the course is to understand the two frameworks mentioned in the course description above by reading, discussing, comparing, and using them. We will read about the IOA and IAD frameworks and discuss them during Monday seminar meetings. Each student will use the frameworks to write about and present a topic of the student’s interest and choosing.

Each of the two frameworks has been the subject of a book published in the last 20 years, and those two books will be our main texts and form the core of our reading this semester. Each framework draws upon various influences – in fact, they share several influences – and we will incorporate some of those influences through additional readings. Also, there are several readings that bridge the two frameworks by presenting comparisons, contrasts, or by treating some topic the frameworks may have in common without necessarily having addressed it.
directly. Finally, many publications criticize and/or attempt to build upon the two frameworks, or introduce us to other literatures where scholars are puzzling over the same or similar issues, and we will incorporate several of those.

The two main texts are what we all will read in common, plus two articles (listed as “aids”) that have been published about the IAD framework. (The IAD framework has been around longer than the IOA, so there are several published commentaries on the IAD.) We will divide up the additional readings – 30 articles or chapters listed below under the headings Influences, Bridges, and Extensions. Each of those reading will be assigned to one or two students, whose task will be to read that selection and present a brief (5-10 minute) summary of it during a Monday seminar meeting. During seminar meetings, students will summarize the readings they were assigned, and we will all discuss those as well as the selections from the main texts that were assigned for that Monday.

Students will go beyond reading and discussion of the two frameworks by applying them to a subject of the student’s interest and choosing, subject to my approval. This will be done in the form of a research paper. The paper should combine relevant readings from this seminar with whatever outside sources are pertinent to the student’s chosen topic.

Early in the semester, students will identify a paper topic and share it with everyone in the seminar. Students may then proceed to work on their papers throughout the semester as long as I have approved their topics. In the next-to-last week that we meet, students will make brief presentations about their papers to one another.

On Monday, December 16th, all students’ papers will be presented and discussed at the annual Ostrom Workshop Mini-Conference. You do not present your own paper at the Mini-Conference. Your paper will be presented and discussed by someone else; this format provides a beneficial incentive to make sure you have presented your ideas and research clearly.

Final papers are due on or before December 16th.

THE READING LIST
[Note: all readings other than the two main texts are posted on Canvas.]

To be read by everyone

Main texts


Aids


Additional Readings (to be divided up and assigned)

Influences


Bridges


Extensions, Critiques, and Links to Other Literatures


THE SCHEDULE

[Note: we will not meet on these four Mondays: Sept. 2nd, Sept. 9th, Nov. 25th, or Dec. 9th.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Main text selections</th>
<th>Additional readings</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26th</td>
<td>Introduction to the seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16th</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 1</td>
<td>McGinnis 2011 (all read); Cole 2017 (all read); Hayek 1945; Simon 1956</td>
<td>Paper topics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alston et al., Introduction</td>
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<td>September 23rd</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 2 and 3</td>
<td>Commons 1924a; Commons 1924b; Commons 1931</td>
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<td>September 30th</td>
<td>Alston et al., Ch. 1 and 2</td>
<td>Commons 1924a; Commons 1924b; Commons 1931</td>
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<td>October 7th</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 4</td>
<td>Demsetz 1967; Kirzner 1997; North 1991; North 1994</td>
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<td>Alston et al., Ch. 3 and Intro to Part II</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>October 14th</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 5</td>
<td>Hodgson 2006; Cole &amp; Grossman 2002; Slaev 2017</td>
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<td>October 21st</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 6 and 7</td>
<td>Alexander 2005; Child 1972; Elster 1989</td>
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<td>October 28th</td>
<td>Ostrom, Ch. 8 and 9</td>
<td>Fuenfschilling &amp; Truffer 2014; Geels 2004</td>
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<td>November 4th</td>
<td>Alston et al., Ch. 8 and 9</td>
<td>Battilana &amp; D’Aunno 2009; Lawrence et al 2009; Lubell 2013; Puranam &amp; Vanneste 2009</td>
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<td>November 11th</td>
<td>Alston et al., Ch. 4 and 5</td>
<td>Bennett et al. 2018; Brisbois et al. 2019; Lubell 2015</td>
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<td>November 18th</td>
<td>Alston et al., Ch. 6 and 7</td>
<td>Hotimsky et al. 2006; Whaley 2018</td>
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<td>December 2nd</td>
<td>Rehearsal – present and discuss draft papers</td>
<td>Draft papers</td>
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<td>December 16th</td>
<td>Ostrom Workshop Mini-Conference</td>
<td>Final papers</td>
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