

POLS 493/ 598
Comparative Local Government
Spring 2024

Dr. Ozge Kemahlioglu

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Course schedule:

Monday 13:40-15:30, FENS L061

Wednesday 13:40-14:30, FASS 1011

Office Hours:

Monday 11:00-12:00

Teaching Assistant:

Ali Baydarol

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Course Description and Objectives:

The goal of this class is to give you a basic understanding of institutional organization of local governments, current challenges faced by local governments, and how local politics interact with local governments. The course starts with a clarification of key concepts. Then, we will discuss different organizational characteristics of local governments from a comparative perspective. The next section will focus on representation, participation, and local political actors who might be involved with local policy formation and implementation. Then, we will focus on policy formation and implementation in general as well as in specific areas such as housing, environment, and water provision. The course will finish with a discussion of local governments' links with international actors and organizations. The course tries to strike a balance between policy and theoretical debates as it intends to appeal to both students who are interested in further academic studies on local government and students who are planning to pursue a career related to local politics or public policy.

Student Responsibilities:

(1) Required Reading and Participation.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. All readings will be available through SUCourse.

You are also required to attend and participate in class discussions. The part of your grade based on class participation will be determined by (1) attendance and (2) active participation.

(2) Exams.

There will be four announced quizzes based on the assigned readings and class discussions. The dates will be announced two weeks in advance.

(3) Policy Paper

For this paper, please pick a policy area and a municipality. You need to conduct research on what this particular municipality did in this particular policy area for at least two electoral periods. You will need to use municipality reports, documents, webpages, interviews to collect this information. The paper will have two sections. In section one you will describe the policy formation and implementation process. In the second part you will discuss the challenges in the policy formation and implementation processes and possible explanations for the policy choices and outcomes. You are highly encouraged to talk with me about your municipality and policy area early in the semester.

Deadline for outline: **April 17**

(4) Presentation

You will present your preliminary findings for the policy paper (3) in the last week of the semester.

Your course grade will be based on the four quizzes (40%), the final paper (40%), class participation (10%), and presentation (10%).

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	<60
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Course Calendar and Required Readings:

INTRODUCTION

Week 1 Introduction

Wolman, H. 2008. "Comparing Local Government Systems across Countries: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges to Building a Field of Comparative Local Government Studies." *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 26(1), 87-103.
<https://doi.org/10.1068/cav5>

Post, Alison. 2018. "Cities and politics in the developing world". *Annual Review of Political Science*, 21: 115-33.

Recommended Reading

Eaton, Kent. 2024. "Subnational political tensions" in C.N. Avellaneda and R. A. Bello-Gomez (eds.) *Handbook of Subnational Governments and Governance*. EEPublishng.

Week 2 Concept definition and discussion (decentralization, federalism, subsidiarity...)

Rodden, Jonathan. 2004. "Comparative Federalism and Decentralization: On Meaning and Measurement." *Comparative Politics* 36(4): 481–500.

Mookherjee, Dilip. 2015. "Political Decentralization" *Annu. Rev. Econ.* 2015. 7:231–49

Drew, Joseph and Bligh Grant. 2017. "Subsidiarity: More than a Principle of Decentralization—a View from Local Government" *Publius* Vol. 47, No. 4 (Fall 2017), pp. 522-545

LOCAL GOV INSTITUTIONS

Week 3 Comparative Organization of Local Governments

Lassen, David Dreyer, and Søren Serritzlew. 2011. "Jurisdiction Size and Local Democracy: Evidence on Internal Political Efficacy from Large-scale Municipal Reform." *American Political Science Review* 105(2): 238–258.

Trounstine, Jessica, 2020. "Local Political Economy: The State of the Field: Past, Present, and Future," *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, now publishers, vol. 1(3), pages 319-340, August.

Rodden, Jonathan A. 2019. "Decentralized Rule and Revenue" in Rodden, Jonathan A. and Erik Wibbels. (eds.) *Decentralized governance and accountability: academic research and the future of donor programming* Cambridge UP.

Week 4 Local Governments in Turkey

Bayraktar, U. 2018. "Policy-making at local level: An analysis of Turkish municipalities" in Bakir & Ertan (eds.), *Policy-Analysis in Turkey*, Policy Press, Bristol, 105-120.

Savaşkan, O. (2021). Political dynamics of local government reform in a development context: The case of Turkey. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 39(1), 204-225.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2399654420943903>

LOCAL POLITICS – ELECTIONS

Week 5 Representation

Gendźwiłł, Adam, Ulrik Kjaer, Kristof Steyvers. 2022. "“Happily ever after”? Comparing local elections and voting in 40 European countries" in Gendźwiłł, Adam, Ulrik Kjaer, Kristof Steyvers (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Local Elections and Voting in Europe* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003009672>

Yildirim, Kerem & Gülnur Kocapinar. 2019. "Untangling the gender gap: nomination and representativeness in Turkish local elections", *Turkish Studies*, 20:2, 222-248, DOI: 10.1080/14683849.2018.1553621

Recommended Readings:

Sumbas, Ahu. 2020. "Gendered local politics: the barriers to women's representation in Turkey", *Democratization*, 27:4, 570-587, DOI: 10.1080/13510347.2019.1706166

Anzia, Sarah F. 2021. "Party and Ideology in American Local Government: An Appraisal" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2021 24:1, 133-150

Week 6 Participation

McDonnell, Joshua. 2020. "Municipality size, political efficacy and political participation: a systematic review" *Local Government Studies*, 46:3, 331-350, DOI: 10.1080/03003930.2019.1600510

Cabannes, Y. 2015. "The impact of participatory budgeting on basic services: municipal practices and evidence from the field". *Environment and Urbanization*, 27(1), 257-284.

Balderacchi C. 201. "Participatory Mechanisms in Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela: Deepening or Undermining Democracy?" *Government and Opposition*. 2017;52(1):131-161. doi:10.1017/gov.2015.26

Recommended Reading:

Hawkins, K. A. 2010 "Who Mobilizes? Participatory Democracy in Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution", *Latin American Politics And Society*, 52(3): 31-66.

Einstein KL, Palmer M, Glick DM. 2019. "Who Participates in Local Government? Evidence from Meeting Minutes." *Perspectives on Politics*. 2019;17(1):28-46. doi:10.1017/S153759271800213X

Week 7 Intermediaries and local party organization

Auerbach, Adam Michael. 2016. "Clients and communities: The political economy of party network organization and development in India's urban slums." *World Politics* 68, no. 1 (2016): 111-148

Baldwin, K., & Holzinger, K. 2019. "Traditional Political Institutions and Democracy: Reassessing Their Compatibility and Accountability". *Comparative Political Studies*, 52(12), 1747-1774.

Brierley, Sarah and Noah L. Nathan. 2021. "The Connections of Party Brokers: Which Brokers Do Parties Select?" *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 83 (3).

Week 8 Redistribution and distributive politics

León, Gianmarco and Leonard Wantchekon. 2019. "Clientelism in Decentralized States" in Rodden, Jonathan A. and Erik Wibbels. (eds.) *Decentralized governance and accountability: academic research and the future of donor programming* Cambridge UP.

Schneider, M. 2020. "The discerning voter: Party–voter linkages and local distribution under multilevel governance." *Party Politics*, 26(2), 191-202.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068818761195>

Molina-Garzón, Adriana, Tara Grillos, Alan Zarychta, and Krister P. Andersson. 2022. "Decentralization Can Increase Cooperation among Public Officials" *American Journal of Political Science*. Volume 66, Issue3, Pages 554-569

LOCAL POLITICS – POLICY FORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Week 9 Policy implementation and outputs

Berenschot, Ward and Peter Mulder. 2019. "Explaining regional variation in local governance: Clientelism and state-dependency in Indonesia" *World Development*, Volume 122, 2019, Pages 233-244.

Carreri, Maria. 2021. "Can Good Politicians Compensate for Bad Institutions? Evidence from an Original Survey of Italian Mayors" *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 83(4).

Trounstine, Jessica. "Segregation and Inequality in Public Goods" *American Journal of Political Science*. Volume 60, Issue3, Pages 709-725

Week 10 Urban Planning and Housing

Deuskar, Chandan. 2022. *Urban Planning in a World of Informal Politics* University of Pennsylvania Press. Chapter 1.

Topal, A., Aylin Topal, Galip L. Yalman & Özlem Çelik. 2019. "Changing modalities of urban redevelopment and housing finance in Turkey: Three mass housing projects in Ankara", *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 41:5, 630-653, DOI: 10.1080/07352166.2018.1533378

Recommended Reading:

Can, Aysegul. 2022. "Housing and urbanization policies of Istanbul, Turkey from central to the local", *Urban Research & Practice*, 15:3, 454-463, DOI: 10.1080/17535069.2022.2085376

Levine Einstein, Katherine and David M. Glick *Neighborhood Defenders: Participatory Politics and America's Housing Crisis* Cambridge UP

Week 11 Environment and Disaster prevention

Valdivieso, P., & Andersson, K. P. 2017. "Local Politics of Environmental Disaster Risk Management: Institutional Analysis and Lessons From Chile." *The Journal of Environment & Development*, 26(1), 51-81. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1070496516685369>

Şenol Balaban, M. 2019. "Hazard-Prone Cities and Recent Challenges in the Case of Urban Transformation Experience of Turkey". In: Özdemir Sarı, Ö., Özdemir, S., Uzun, N. (eds) *Urban and Regional Planning in Turkey*. The Urban Book Series. Springer, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05773-2_12

Gallego, Jorge. 2018. "Natural disasters and clientelism: The case of floods and landslides in Colombia" *Electoral Studies*, Volume 55, 2018, Pages 73-88,

Week 12 Other policy areas

Water

Herrera, Veronica, and Alison E. Post. 2014. "Can developing countries both decentralize and depoliticize urban water services? Evaluating the legacy of the 1990s reform wave." *World Development* 64 (2014): 621-641.

Security (Law Enforcement and Human rights)

Auyero, Javier, Agustín Burbano de Lara, and María Fernanda Berti. 2014. "Violence and the State at the Urban Margins." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 43, no. 1 (2014): 94-116.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Week 13 International links

Stren, Richard and Abigail Friendly. 2019. "Big city mayors: Still avatars of local politics?," *Cities*, Volume 84, 2019, Pages 172-177

Ayan Musil P, Yardımcı-Geyikçi Ş. 2023. "Transnationalization of Opposition Strategy under Competitive Authoritarianism: Evidence from Turkey and Hungary." *Government and Opposition*. Published online 2023:1-19. doi:10.1017/gov.2023.19

Charasz, P., & Vogler, J. P. 2021. "Does EU funding improve local state capacity? Evidence from Polish municipalities." *European Union Politics*, 22(3), 446-471.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165211005847>

Recommended Reading:

Marylís Fantoni and Claudia N. Avellaneda 2024. "The role of subnational governments in international relations: paradiplomacy in Brazil" in C.N. Avellaneda and R. A. Bello-Gomez (eds.) *Handbook of Subnational Governments and Governance*. EEPublishing.

Week 14 Presentations

Useful links for sources and data:

<https://www.pbatlas.net/index.html>

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/>

<https://www.latinno.net/en/>

https://v-dem.net/media/publications/v-dem_working_paper_2016_26.pdf

<https://twitter.com/redsubnacional/status/1728133050675130643>

<https://uclg.org/>