Course description:

Legislatures vary considerably but the most effective ones perform some functions in common. These include representation, lawmaking and oversight. Legislatures that perform these functions play a role as one of the core democratic institutions of their societies. Functioning legislatures can serve as a means for popular participation in policymaking as well a constraint on executive power.

This is a course in the theory and practice of legislative development undertaken as part of a democratization process. Our theoretical examination will look into the literature on democratization, as well as on the functions of legislatures and their potential contributions. Our examination of practices will look at the rationales for legislative assistance, the motives of donors and clients, and techniques that are commonly in use for encouraging development.

Much of the material for this course will be drawn from reports and other documents written by the instructor and others about and for legislative development programs supported by the U.S., U.K., U.N. and other donors. We will examine legislative assistance efforts in Africa (Nigeria, Liberia, Rwanda, Malawi, Ethiopia), Asia and the South Pacific (Laos, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Fiji), the Caribbean and Latin America (Haiti, Bolivia).

Required Readings:

E Reserve: Most of the required readings will be on e reserve. You will access this through the library website. The password for access will be announced in class.

Books to buy:

Grading: There will be quizzes and short assignments to encourage you to do the reading. The largest part of the final grade will be based on a term paper on legislative development on a legislature of the student’s choice which will be done in parts. First due will be a prospectus at midterm indicating which legislature you will focus on and where you will get the necessary data to do the work. Second, you will make an oral presentation of your findings during the final weeks of class. The final paper which will be due on the last day of class will be divided into: (1) an assessment of needs (using tools and techniques taught in class); (2) an analysis of the political and administrative feasibility of a legislative assistance program; (3) a design for a program of activities and suggestions for measuring implementation progress and outputs/outcomes,

Weekly Schedule

Introduction
1. Introduction. Thursday, Jan. 22.
No assignment

A Changing Strategic Environment

2. A Mass Extinction and Its Consequences? Tuesday, Jan. 27
Yergin and Stanislaw, The Commanding Heights. First third

3. Trends, Lessons Taken, and Opportunities. Thursday, Jan. 29
Yergin and Stanislaw, The Commanding Heights. Second third

Third Waves and Reactions?

4. Third Wave Optimism, Tuesday, Feb. 3
Diamond, Universal Democracy, E RESERVE

5. Promoting Democracy, Thursday, Feb. 5
Carothers et al., A Quarter Century of Promoting Democracy, ERESERVE

6. Democracy Promotion, Impediments and Skepticism, Tuesday, Feb. 10
Thomas Carothers, Does Democracy Promotion Have A Future? ERESERVE
Larry Diamond, the Rule of Law Vs. The Big Man ERESERVE
Diamond Democratic Rollback… Predatory State, E RESERVE

7. Legislatures and Democracy, Thursday, Feb. 12
Fish, Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies E RESERVE
Nakamura and Johnson, Legislatures and Good Governance E RESERVE

BREAK
8. Reasons for Assisting Legislatures, Tuesday, Feb. 25
Mitch O’Brien, Nexus Between Conflict Prevention and Parliamentary Development
DFID Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalization Work for the Poor
Has the White Paper Got it Right?

Implementing Legislative Assistance

9. Strategies, Thursday, Feb. 26
Nakamura, Assessing Three Scenarios
Joel Barkan, “Legislatures on the Rise”

10. Lessons to be applied? Tuesday, Mar. 3
UNDP, Assisting Legislatures, Synthesis of Lesson Learned, April 2000
Elites and Institutions Lit Review

11. Delivery Systems. Thursday, Mar. 5
Mendolson, Democracy Assistance and NGO Strategies
Robert Miller (Parliamentary Centre), The Role of NGOSs in International Democratic Development

PROSPECTUS DUE AT START OF CLASS

12. How to? Tuesday, Mar. 10
UNDP, How To Conduct a Legislative Needs Assessment
PNG (Papua New Guinea) Needs Assessment

13. Big Possibilities?, Thursday, Mar. 12
O’Brien, Making Parliament More Representative

Developing Legislative Oversight Capacity

14. What is It and Why Is It Useful? Tuesday, Mar. 17
IBP Financial Oversight
Klitgaard, Leadership under Systemic Corruption
John Johnson and Rick Stapenhurst, The Growth of Parliamentary Budget Offices

15. The Case of Malawi, Thursday, Mar. 19
DFID Budget As Theater Malawi
Kimberly Smiddy, Legislative Oversight or Opposition Politiking? Executive-Legislative Relations in Malawi, 2004 to 2007
Legislative Development in Post Conflict States

16. Liberia, Tuesday, Mar. 24
Liberia Terms Of Reference, E RESERVE
Liberia Final Report E RESERVE

17. Rwanda, Thursday, Mar. 26
Nakamura, Rwanda article, E RESERVE

18. Haiti, Tuesday, Mar. 31
ARD Parliamentary Report final 99
USAID RFTOP Haiti E RESERVE
Haiti Draft Report Ver 3 E RESERVE

Legislative Development in Small States

19. Island States: Solomon Islands, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands, Thursday, April 2
UNDP Leg Reform for the Pac Islands E RESERVE
Solomon Islands Report E RESERVE
Pacific Regional Report E RESERVE

20. A Communist State: Laos, Tuesday, April 7
Laos Terms Of Reference ERESERVE
Nakamura Lao Midterm Review ERESERVE

BREAK

21. A Monarchy: Jordan, Tuesday, April 14
Jordan DG Assessment E RESERVE

Legislative Development in Large States

22. Indonesia, Thursday, April 16
USAID Indonesia Plan E RESERVE
Sherlock, Indonesian Parliament (Struggling to Change: The Indonesian Parliament in an Era of Reformasi) e reserve
Nakamura, Draft Indonesia Report E RESERVE
Recommended:
Indonesia Parliamentary Summary E RESERVE
Twentyman Indonesia Report, E RESERVE

23. Papua New Guinea, Tuesday, April 21
PNG final report
PNG elections
24. Nigeria, Thursday, April 23
    USAID, Democracy and Governance Assessment of Nigeria E RESERVE
    Peter Lewis, Afrobarometer Nigeria E RESERVE

25. Student Presentations, Tuesday, April 28

26. Student Presentations, Thursday, April 30

27. Student Presentations, Tuesday, May 5
    PAPERS DUE