



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2019

9,268: Political Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 60 mins.)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,268,1.00 Political Economics](#) -- Englisch -- [Hodler Roland](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Intermediate knowledge of microeconomics and econometrics (or quantitative methods).

Course content

Political economics aims at understanding government behavior and (economic) policy-making. It is positive rather than normative, i.e., it studies how real-world governments behave rather than how benevolent governments would behave.

The course consists of lectures and student presentations. The lectures introduce the major theoretical concepts and models of political economics. The students present (in groups of 1-2 students) empirical journal articles relating to the theoretical models and their predictions.

The course covers the following topics:

1. Introduction and standard median voter models
2. Partisan politicians and the selection of political candidates
3. Voters, rationality, and social identity
4. Reelections and the (sometimes perverse) incentives of political incumbents
5. Weak democracies, the media, and corruption

The objectives of this course are:

1. To know the main concepts and models in political economics
2. To apply microeconomic concepts to analysis the government's incentives and behavior
3. To understand empirical journal articles in political economics, and to develop a sense of what it takes to produce cutting-edge research (and maybe to get some inspiration for your Master thesis).

Course structure

The course consists of six 4-hour sessions. The first session consists of an introduction and a first 90-minute lecture. The next four sessions all consist of a 90-minute lecture and student presentations. The final exam takes place in the last session.

Course literature

Textbook for most lectures: Persson, T., and G. Tabellini, 2000. Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy. MIT Press. (Chapters 1.1-6.1 are complementary to lectures; not required for the exam.)

Journal articles for lectures and student presentations become available on StudyNet before the beginning of the course.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Remark

Presentations of empirical journal articles

Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 60 mins.)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, PDAs, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

Students are allowed to use one hand-written cheat sheet (DIN A4 format, both sides, no photocopies, no printouts).

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Relevant for the exam is the material covered in the lectures, the slides, and the student presentations related to:

1. Arrow's Impossibility Theorem and standard median voter models
2. Partisan politicians and the selection of political candidates



3. Voters, rationality, and social identity
4. Reelections and the (sometimes perverse) incentives of political incumbents
5. Weak democracies, the media, and corruption

Examination relevant literature

Slides and empirical journal articles presented by students (all distributed via StudyNet at the beginning of the semester).

Please note

Please note that this fact sheet alone is binding and has priority over any other information such as StudyNet (Canvas), personal databases or faculty members' websites and information provided in their lectures, etc.

Any possible references and links within the fact sheet to information provided by third parties are merely supplementary and informative in nature and are outside the University of St.Gallen's scope of responsibility and guarantee.

Documents and materials that have been submitted no later than the end of term time (CW51) are relevant to central examinations.

Binding nature of the fact sheet:

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral) and examination type starting from the beginning of the bidding on 22 August 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for decentral examinations after the 4th semester week on 14 October 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for central examinations as from the starting date for examination registration on 4 November 2019

Please consult the fact sheet again after these deadlines have expired.