



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

9,268: Political Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

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

Course information

Course prerequisites

Intermediate knowledge of microeconomics/game theory and econometrics/quantitative methods.

Learning objectives

- To know the main concepts and theoretical models in political economics.
- To learn to apply game-theoretic tools to study the incentives and behavior of governments.
- 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 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 covers the following topics:

1. Standard median voter models
2. Partisan politicians and the selection of political candidates
3. Voters, rationality, and social identity
4. Reelections and the policy choices of incumbent governments
5. Democratic institutions and accountability

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of 6 lectures and 4 sessions with student presentations. The final exam takes place during the last session. A Q&A session takes place one week before the exam.

The course consists of 6 lectures and 4 sessions with 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.

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 Canvas before the beginning of the course.

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform Zoom.
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days.
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The written examination is replaced by an examination paper written at home.

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%)

Examination time: term time

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 (with defined exam duration) (50%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final exam

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, 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. Standard median voter models
2. Partisan politicians and the selection of political candidates
3. Voters, rationality, and social identity
4. Reelections and the policy choice of incumbents
5. Democratic institutions and accountability

Examination relevant literature

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

Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 26 August 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);

Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 8 November 2021).