



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

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 - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

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 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. Standard median voter models
2. Voters, rationality, and social identity
3. Reelections and the policy choices of incumbent governments

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.

The course will take place face-to-face.

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 in AS2020, lectures and student presentations will be held on Zoom. Further information will be communicated via StudyNet.

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 - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections,



section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

Supplementary aids

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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: standard median voter models; voters, rationality, and social identity; reelections and the policy choices of incumbent governments.

5. Weak democracies, the media, and corruption

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, 20 August 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 44 (Thursday, 29 October 2020).