



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

9,268: Political Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written examination, Analog, Individual work individual grade (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Oral examination and technical discussions, Analog, Group work group grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,268,1.00 Political Economics](#) -- English -- [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 policy choices of incumbent governments
5. Weak democracies and institutional change

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of 6 lectures, 4 sessions with student presentations, a Q&A session, and a final exam. The lectures introduce the major theoretical concepts and models of political economics. The students present empirical journal articles relating to the theoretical models and their predictions.

Course literature

Textbook for some lectures: Persson, T., and G. Tabellini, 2000. Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy. MIT Press. (The textbook is not necessary for the exam, but chapters 1.1-6.1 may be helpful to follow the lectures.)

Journal articles for other lectures and student presentations become available on Canvas 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 modalities

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Examination type | Written examination |
| Responsible for organisation | decentral |
| Examination form | Written exam |
| Examination mode | Analog |
| Time of examination | Term time |
| Examination execution | Synchronous |
| Examination location | On Campus |
| Grading type | Individual work individual grade |
| Weighting | 50% |
| Duration | 90 mins. |

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Final exam

Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

None

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination modalities

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Examination type | Oral examination and technical discussions |
| Responsible for organisation | decentral |
| Examination form | Oral examination |
| Examination mode | Analog |
| Time of examination | Term time |
| Examination execution | Asynchronous |
| Examination location | On Campus |
| Grading type | Group work group grade |
| Weighting | 50% |
| Duration | -- |



Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Presentation of empirical journal article

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

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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. Re-elections and the policy choice of incumbents
5. Weak democracies and institutional change

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, 22nd August 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 18 March 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 14 October 2024);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: Starting with de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 04 November 2024).