

Prof. Dr. Robert Schwager · Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3 · 37073 Göttingen · Germany

Prof. Dr. Robert Schwager Professor of Economics

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Göttingen, January 10, 2018

#### MAGKS doctoral course "Political Economics", spring 2018

## Topic

The course provides an analytical overview of the most widely used models in political economics. Students who want to do theoretical work in political economics will be given a collection of tools from which to choose for their own research.

In the course, students will learn to understand the logic behind results, assess the role of key assumptions in proofs, and discuss the scope and limits of the models presented. Some examples for applications in specific policy fields will also be presented.

The course is based on

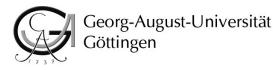
Persson, T. and G. Tabellini (2002), Political Economics, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

## **Dates and rooms**

Fri., 06.04.2018 11:00-19:00, Oeconomicum - 1.163
Sat., 07.04.2018 08:00-15:00, Oeconomicum - 1.163
Fri., 20.04.2018 11:00-19:00, Verfügungsgebäude - VG 3.106
Sat., 21.04.2013 08:00-15:00, Oeconomicum - 1.163
Address:
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3 (Oeconomicum), 7 (Verfügungsgebäude) 37073 Göttingen

## Requirements

Successful completion of the course requires to solve one problem set until Fri 20.04.2018, and a second one until 14.05.2018. Groups of up to three participants may co-operate in working on the problem sets.



Faculty of Economic Sciences Chair of Public Economics

# Outline

References to pages (p.) or chapters (ch.) in Persson, T. and G. Tabellini (2002).

#### I Introduction

- I.1 Purpose and scope of the course (ch. 1)
- I.2 Policy problems (ch. 2.1, 3.1)

#### II Median Voter Models

- II.1 Pure majority rule (p. 25, 28-30)
- II.2 Sufficient conditions for median voter equilibrium (ch. 2.2)
- II.3 Redistribution (ch. 6.1)

#### **III** Political Competition

- III.1 Office motivated politicians (ch. 3.3)
- III.2 Rent-seeking politicians (ch. 4.1)
- III.3 Partisan politicians (ch. 5.1, 5.2)

#### **IV Probabilistic Voting**

- IV.1 Continuous reaction of election outcome (p. 32-34)
- IV.2 Micropolitical foundation (ch. 3.4)
- IV.3 Lobbying (ch. 3.5)
- IV.4 Rent-seeking politicians (ch. 4.2)

#### V Accountability

- V.1 Electoral competition with incomplete information (ch. 4.3)
- V.2 Retrospective voting (ch. 4.4)
- V.3 Career concerns (ch. 4.5)
- V.4 Local vs. national elections (ch. 9.1.1)

#### VI Citizen Candidate Model (ch. 5.3)

- VI.1 Endogenous candidates for political office
- VI.2 Single-candidate equilibria
- VI.3 Two-candidate equilibria
- VI.4 Capital taxation and strategic delegation (ch. 12.3)

#### VII Agenda Setting and Legislative Bargaining (p. 37-38, ch. 5.4)

- VII.1 Specifying rules of political decision making
- VII.2 Agenda setting and public good supply