

Models of Voting



Module Number Noch offen	Workload 225 h	Credits 7,5 CP	Duration 1 Term	Cycle yearly; summer term
Responsible Faculty Member	Prof. Dr. Deszö Szalay			
Institute	Department of Economics			
Study Program	Title		Character	Study Term
	Bachelor of Science Volkswirtschaftslehre		Elective: Economics	5 th or 6 th
Learning Outcomes	The course aims at making the students familiar with key concepts in the rational choice analysis of voting. At the end of the course, students should have a better understanding of the core trade offs that underlie voters' and politicians' decisions.			
Key Skills	Analytical reasoning. Interest in voting (committees, elections, etc). Intellectual curiosity.			
Learning Content	Students will learn to understand the basic incentives faced by rational individual voters when making their voting decision. For example, the notion of pivotality (Does my vote have any impact?) is key and interacts with voters' belief formation (Bayesian updating: What is the state of the world?) as well as their decision to participate (the so-called paradox of voting: Shall I bother to go vote given that it's costly?) or to acquire information (Shall I bother get informed?). A key insight is that rational mechanisms often bring about counterintuitive results. Within the framework of elections, the incentives faced by the other side shall be examined, i.e. political candidates, in terms of proposing programs that maximize their voting outcomes. The course also includes an examination of Laboratory Experiments exploring how people actually behave in voting settings.			
Prerequisites for attending	English Proficiency, knowledge of basic notions of game theory.			
Course Type	Lecture, Seminar, etc.		Contact time	Workload [h]
	lecture in english		4 hrs per week	(c) 60 (s) 165
Examination(s)	Type of Examination		Grades	
	written exam		yes	
Special Course Achievements				
Other	Recommended Literature: Literature will be announced at the beginning of the semester			