

Advanced topics in Political Economics

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Course description

The course aims to understand how the political-institutional framework influences economic policies. The impact of different electoral laws and forms of government will be analysed, with a focus on how the democratization process can influence fiscal and redistributive policies as well as economic performance. Additionally, the course aims to study the historical evolution of spending and taxation capacity in different states, with a particular reference to the European experience.

By the end of the course, it is expected that students will have acquired the methodological foundations of positive analysis and be able to critically evaluate issues related to the aggregation of individual preferences and institutional changes.

Readings

Institutions, comparative politics, and economic policy

Acemoglu D. (2005) "Constitutions, Politics, and Economics: A Review Essay on Persson and Tabellini's the Economic Effects of Constitutions," *Journal of Economic Literature*

Bordignon M., T. Nannicini, and G. Tabellini, (2016) "Moderating Political Extremism: Single Round vs Runoff Elections," *American Economic Review*

Gagliarducci S., T. Nannicini, and P. Naticchioni, (2011) "Electoral Rules and Politicians' Behavior: A Micro Test," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

Galasso V., and S. Nunnari (2019) "The Economic Effects of Electoral Rules: Evidence from Unemployment Benefits," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

Persson T., and G. Tabellini, (2004), "Constitutions and Economic Policy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

Democracy, redistribution, and economic performance

Acemoglu D., S. Naidu, P. Restrepo, and J. A. Robinson (2014) "Democracy, Redistribution, and Inequality," in *Handbook of Income Distribution*

Acemoglu D., S. Naidu, P. Restrepo, and J. A. Robinson (2019) "Democracy Does Cause Growth", *Journal of Political Economy*

Alesina A., S. Stantcheva, and E. Teso (2018) "Intergenerational Mobility and Preferences for Redistribution," *American Economic Review*

Doucette J. (2022) “Parliamentary Constraints and Long-Term Development: Evidence from the Duchy of Württemberg,” *American Journal of Political Science*

Scheve K., and D. Stasavage (2012) “Democracy, War, and Wealth: Evidence of Two Centuries of Inheritance Taxation,” *American Political Science Review*

Scheve K., and D. Stasavage (2016) *Taxing the Rich. A History of Fiscal Fairness in the United States and Europe*, Princeton University Press

Emergence of effective states

Cox G., M. Dincecco, and M. G. Onorato (2024) “Window of Opportunity: War and the Origins of Parliament,” *British Journal of Political Science*

Cox G., M. Dincecco, and M. G. Onorato (2024) “Warfare, Fiscal Gridlock, and State Formation during Europe’s Military Revolution,” Manuscript. University of Michigan

Dincecco M. (2015) “The Rise of Effective States in Europe,” *Journal of Economic History*

Dincecco M., and G. Katz (2016) “State Capacity and Long-Run Economic Performance,” *Economic Journal*

Gennaioli N., and H. J. Voth (2015) “State Capacity and Military Conflict,” *Review of Economic Studies*