

Political economics 2023

Uppsala University

Main teacher: Luca Repetto

Teaching assistant: Gilson Dutra

Guest lecturers: Linna Martén, Torben Mideksa

Course program (updated 20/10/23)

1. Background and social choice

- a. Introduction
- b. Condorcet's voting paradox
- c. Arrows' impossibility theorem
- d. Median voter theorem
- e. Intensity of preferences

2. Voting

- a. Voting rules
- b. Condorcet jury Theorem
- c. Why do people vote?
- d. Strategic voting

3. Electoral Competition I – Deterministic Voting

- a. A simple model of public finance
- b. Median voter model with parties
- c. Empirical evidence on policy convergence
- d. An application of the median voter model: The growth of government

4. Electoral Competition II – Probabilistic Voting

- a. Probabilistic voting models
- b. Empirical evidence: an application to intergovernmental grants
- c. An application to campaigning

5. Electoral Competition III – The Citizen-Candidate Model

- a. Politicians with policy views
- b. Citizen-candidate models
- c. Empirical evidence
- d. Legislative bargaining models

6. Agency models

- a. Political competition with rents
- b. A simple agency model
- c. Politician's traits

7. Lobbying and campaigning

- a. Special interest groups

- b. Lobbying and campaigning
 - i. Quid pro quo models vs. informational models: evidence
 - c. Political ties
- 8. Political budget cycles**
- a. A simple probabilistic voting model of budget cycles
 - b. Empirical evidence
- 9. Voters and politicians' information**
- a. The effect of information campaign on voting outcomes
 - b. Effects on politicians
 - c. Canvassing
- 10. The labor market of politicians**
- a. Motives for holding office
 - b. Evidence of wages and political selection
- 11. Political Economy of International Climate Policies (Torben Mideksa)**
- a. Cooperatively optimal policies
 - b. Non-cooperatively chosen policies and sources of global inefficiencies
 - c. The role of international union's such as the EU in reducing inefficiencies
 - d. The role of international climate agreements
- 12. Immigration and political economy (Linna Martén)**
- 13. Political Economics of Mass Media**
- a. What is mass media: types and functions
 - b. How do mass media influence politics and policymaking?
 - c. Empirical evidence on mass media effects
- 14. Populism**
- a. What is populism?
 - b. The recent rise of populist parties
 - c. Evidence on determinants of populism
- 15. Institutions I**
- a. State Capacity
 - b. Inclusive and extractive institutions
 - c. Culture and institutions
- 16. Institutions II**