HS 15236 Modern Political Economy: Draft Seminar Outline

Basics

20.10.2011  Introduction

*General outline of contents and structure of the course; requirements for Teilnahme- and Leistungsscheine*

03.11.2011  From Smith and Ricardo to Marx… and back: History of Economic Thought

*Format: lecture; topic: history of thought on (political) economy*

**Classical Approach:**


**Marxism:**


**Keynesianism:**


10.11.2011  Nature of the Beast: New Political Economy

*Format: lecture; topic: locating NPE in the context of economics, political science, and (traditional) political economy*


17.11.2011  All that is real, is rational; and all that is rational is real”: Rational Choice

*Format: lecture; topic: basic paradigms and methods in NPE: rational choice, game theory*

**alternative:**


24.11.2011  In search of the Volonté Générale; Social Choice, Game Theory

*Format: lecture; topic: basic paradigms and methods in NPE: social/public choice*


alternative:


Elements and Models

01.12.2011  
**Ideological or opportunist policy? Electoral Cycles**

Format: seminar; input to theoretical background; presentation prepared by students; topic: the logic of political decision-making / decision-makers and their (strategic) interaction with voters in electoral cycles


alternative:


08.12.2011  
**Institutions matter, really? But How?**

Format: seminar; discussion of last session; input to theoretical background; presentation and discussion prepared by student; topic: institutions; their role in rational choice approaches to political science as rules/norms/procedures designed by rational actors and then limiting/impacting upon the choices of rational actors


alternative:


15.12.2011  
**The Shadow of the Vampire: Interest Groups and Media**

Format: seminar; discussion of last session; input to theoretical background; presentation prepared by students; topic: the role of interest groups and media in decision making procedures as intermediary system between economic, governmental and societal actors; their interests, strategies and impact on the creation of binding decisions on interest groups:


critical:

**Applications**

**22.12.2011** „Man kann die Pferde zur Tränke führen, aber saufen müssen sie selbst“ Economic Growth


**12.01.2012** In the long run we are all dead! Public Spending and Public Debt


**19.01.2012** Trade


26.01.2012 Spätrömische Dekadenz? Inequality and Redistribution

Format: seminar; discussion of last session; input to theoretical background; presentation prepared by students; topic: interests of social groups effecting redistribution and structure of public expenditure; role in decision making


02.02.2012 International Cooperation

Format: seminar; discussion of last session; input to theoretical background; presentation prepared by students; topic: interaction of national and international level in terms of political economy, effect of international bargaining on national decision making


09.02.2012 Handshake or Iron fist? Democracy and Dictatorship

Format: seminar; discussion of last session; input to theoretical background; presentation prepared by students; topic: Is the type of political system relevant for political economy’s function and logic?; critical discussion of familiar normative approaches


16.02.2012 Final Discussion

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning”