Summer Term 2017

Dr. Jan Sauermann

PO 2015: Basismodul Seminar Politikwissenschaft I (9 Leistungspunkte)
PO 2007/08: Hauptseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft (6 Leistungspunkte)

Time: Mondays 10:00 – 11:30
Room: Gottfried-Keller-Str. 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts
First Session: 24 April 2017

Course description

Is there a public good? Can it be revealed by democratic procedures? The course will focus on these fundamental questions through the lens of social choice theory. In his highly influential book 'Liberalism against Populism' William Riker argues that democratic decisions are chaotic, meaningless, and arbitrary. The seminar consists of two parts. In the first part of the seminar we will examine Riker’s line of argumentation in detail. In the second part we will analyse alternatives from democratic theory trying to defend democracy against Riker’s pessimistic interpretation of social choice theory.

Prerequisites
Students should have a good knowledge of political science concepts, basic qualitative and quantitative methods, some math skills, and an interest in current research. Since nearly all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

Relevance for study programmes
The course is open to all master students and doctoral students of the WiSo-Faculty with an interest in political science.

Registration
The course will be taught on a weekly basis (first session 24 April 2017). Students should register via KLIPS.

Reading assignments
Required readings for the first session can be found on ILIAS.

After the first session of the seminar a reader with the required texts for the other can be bought at Copy-Star (Zülpicher Straße 184, 50937 Köln).
Working requirements and assessment method

All participants are expected to:

- attend the seminar on a regular basis
- complete assigned readings according to schedule
- actively contribute to class discussions
- give a 10 to 15 minutes presentation in the seminar
- write a research paper of 15-20 pages in length
  - PO 2015: about 6.000 words
  - PO 2007/08: about 5000 words

Submission of the research paper

Please hand in two versions of your research paper:

- **Electronic version**
  (pdf- or Word file) via email to jan.sauermann@uni-koeln.de
  Deadline: 11 September 2017, 10:00am

- **Paper version**
  You can hand in the paper version personally at the secretary of the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (IBW Gebäude, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2, 1st floor, Room 1.09) or send it by mail to:
  Jan Sauermann, Universität zu Köln, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, Postfach 411020, 50870 Köln
  The paper version must contain the following signed statement:
  http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf

Teilnahme- und Prüfungsbedingungen

- Regelmäßige Teilnahme an den Seminarsitzungen
- Gründliche Vorbereitung der angegebenen Grundlagenliteratur
- Aktive Beteiligung an den Diskussionen im Seminar
- Referat (10-15 Minuten)
- Hausarbeit von 15-20 Seiten
  - PO 2015: ca. 6.000 Wörter
  - PO 2007/08: ca. 5000 Wörter

Abgabe der Hausarbeit

Bitte reichen Sie zwei Versionen Ihrer Hausarbeit ein:

- **Elektronische Version**
  (pdf- oder Word-Dokument) per Email an jan.sauermann@uni-koeln.de
  Deadline: 11. September 2017, 10:00 Uhr

- **Papierversion**
  Sie können die ausgedruckte Version Ihrer Hausarbeit entweder persönlich während der Öffnungszeiten im Sekretariat des Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (IBW-Gebäude, Herbert-Lewin-Str.2, 1. Stock, Raum 1.09) abgeben oder per Post an folgende Adresse senden:
  Jan Sauermann, Universität zu Köln, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, Postfach 411020, 50870 Köln
  Die Papierversion muss folgende unterschriebene Erklärung beinhalten:
  http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf
General readings:


Schedule

1) 24 April 2017  Introduction: Riker I

   Required readings:

2) 8 May 2017  Riker II: The Arrow-problem

   Required readings:

   Optional readings:

3) 15 May 2017  Riker III: Strategic voting and agenda control

   Required readings:

   Optional readings:

4) 22 May 2017  Riker IV: Political disequilibrium

   Required readings:
5) 29 May 2017  Riker’s view on democracy

Required readings:

6) 12 June 2017  Mackie I: Defending democracy from social choice

Required readings:

7) 19 June 2017  Mackie II: Unrestricted domain of preferences

Required readings:

Optional readings:

8) 26 June 2017  Mackie III: Strategic voting

Required readings:

9) 3 July 2017   Mackie IV: Multidimensional chaos

Required readings:

Optional readings:

10) **10 July 2017  Mackie vs. Riker**

**Required readings:**

**Optional readings:**

11) **17 July 2017  Social choice and deliberation**

**Required readings:**

12) **24 July 2017  Social choice and pluralism**

**Required readings:**