Distributive politics characterize income redistribution and the allocation of public goods and services (e.g., health care, education, social security, but also particularistic goods) to individuals or groups and are based on taxes and transfers. Wealth and resources are unequally distributed in society. The question that distributive politics consequently address asks: who gets what, who benefits— who loses? Distributive politics illustrate the very heart of politics and a vibrant field of research which just gained new momentum in the last years. We will study principles of resource allocation from political actors (parties) to individuals (voters), considering the electoral payoff for political parties and voters. Which groups are targeted by political parties with public goods provision: core or swing voters, the rich or the poor, the median voter or particular groups (clients), the winning coalition or the selectorate? Do voters respond to non-programmatic inducements such as vote buying? When does income inequality lead to upheaval and regime change? We will start with the discussion of classical concepts and theories in comparative political economy before we move towards the analysis of current issues in this field of research in the course of the seminar.

Distributive politics refer to two central aspects in the political sphere: 1) political accountability and 2) political responsiveness. The first aspect studies how far voters are able to hold political actors accountable for their actions and, thus, takes into account the political consequences of distributive politics (e.g., political survival, distributive conflict). The latter considers the redistributive effect of distributive politics. Do these policies reflect the demand of the voters (mostly, the median voter) or rather particular groups, and do they maximize welfare? We will start with the clarification of classical concepts, such as core and swing voters, and theories of distributive politics (I). In section II we study income inequality and distributive conflicts that emerge from unequal distribution of wealth, finding out which incentives are at work at the individual level to either push for or against redistribution. We investigate micro theories on redistribution in democratic and non-democratic countries and tease out the important role of regime type. In section III we move on to distributive politics that are based on favoritism (political clientelism) and voter intimidation. Here, we study the effects of vote buying on political accountability and political participation with a particular focus on the case of Argentina and we investigate the redistributive effects of clientelistic resource allocation regarding electoral outcomes for the incumbent and the quality of democracy in general. Finally, we will delve into the new research field on voter intimidation (through violence and coercion) as an electoral strategy to influence voting behavior looking at field experiments for the case of Nigeria and the politician’s incentive for the case of electoral intimidation in Imperial Germany.
The goal of the seminar is to establish a genuine understanding for the most crucial question in comparative politics: how public goods are distributed in society. The seminar provides participants with a broad set of classical political economy theories (with a strong emphasis on micro theories), examples from the research frontier on distributive politics and a range of research designs and methodological approaches to draw upon for own research in the field of comparative politics and political economy.

**Prerequisites**
A good knowledge of general political science concepts, theories and basic quantitative and qualitative methods is required. Students should be able to understand and articulate themselves in English as this will be the general classroom language. Of course, perfection is not required but you should be able to make yourself understood. The term paper should be written in English as well.

**Requirements**
The sessions in class are designed as a very participatory seminar format. This means that the class also depends on your in-class participation. Each participant will prepare a 10 to 15 minutes presentation based on additional material or own research on one of the seminar topics (the topics will be distributed in the Introduction session on October 8th 2018). In order to ensure the quality of participation I expect you to have prepared the required readings prior to class and to attend all meetings. The required reading is indicated as such, but you will also find recommended readings which are not required for class. The recommended readings list only serves as orientation in case that you intend to delve deeper into the particular research topic. The mandatory readings will be provided electronically on Ilias.

The term paper should bear on the themes discussed in class and contain no more than 6,000 words (approximately 15-20 pages). You should be clear about your theory, data and methodological approach. It is vital to develop a clear research design that supports your analytical interest. The paper is due on **March 1st 2019** (24:00). Please submit your paper electronically as a PDF document to sarah.berens@uni-koeln.de. Late papers will be punished. The final grade is composed of the term paper, in-class participation and the individual presentation.

In addition to the electronic paper version (which will be checked for plagiarism), please submit a paper version in the course of the week of the due date at the secretary of the CCCP (please check our homepage for opening hours). The paper version must contain the following signed statement:

[http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/wiso_fak/cccp/Lehre/ErklaerungzuArbeiten.pdf](http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/fileadmin/wiso_fak/cccp/Lehre/ErklaerungzuArbeiten.pdf)

**Registration**
Please register via KLIPS. If you cannot use KLIPS, please register by sending me an email (sarah.berens@uni-koeln.de).

**Basic Reading Recommendations (optional)**


**Introduction Session, October 8th (14:00-15:30)**

Location: 210 IBW building, room S105

**I FUNDAMENTALS**

1. **Introduction**

**Day 1: Saturday, December 8th (10:00-18:00)**

Location: 100 Hauptgebäude, lecture hall XIa

2. **Accountability and Representation**

3. **Core versus Swing Voters**

4. **Pork-barrel Politics in the United States**
   Recommended:

**II INCOME INEQUALITY AND DISTRIBUTIVE CONFLICTS**

5. **Distributive Politics and Regime Type**
   Recommended:
6. Income Inequality and Distributive Conflict

7. Preferences for Redistribution I
Recommended:

8. Preferences for Redistribution: Fairness considerations
Recommended:

9. Ethnicity and Distributive Politics
Recommended:

III. DISTRIBUTIVE POLITICS, CLIENTELISM AND COERCION

10. Clientelism, Democracy and Concept Clarification
Recommended:

**Day 3: Saturday, December 15th (10:00-18:00)**
Location: 203 Seminarraum 0.06

11. Vote-buying and Distributive Politics

**Recommended:**

12. Party Competition and Distributive Politics

13. Clientelism, Social Policy and Voting Behavior

**Recommended:**

14. Voter Intimidation: Changing Vote Choice through Coercion?

**Recommended:**

15. Final Discussion