

Methods in Comparative Government II: Comparative Political Economy Syllabus

1 Description

Political Economy is the study of the interrelation of markets and politics. This class introduces students to the empirical analysis of selected topics in comparative political economy. Typical topics in comparative political economy are the size of government, public debt, redistribution, development, the role of financial markets and trade. The class covers questions of research design, data management, measurement, data analysis and data presentation based on political economy applications. The class is meant to equip students with a solid basis for writing an empirical thesis in comparative politics or comparative political economy. A good understanding of statistics is a prerequisite for the class.

2 Organizational Stuff

2.1 Room + Date

Tuesday 12-1.30pm

A 5, 6 Room B 317

11 February 2014 to 27 May 2014

2.2 Contact

Sebastian Köhler

Lehrstuhl Politische Wissenschaft II

A5, 6 Raum A350

Phone: + 49(0)621/181-2071

Mail: s.koehler@uni-mannheim.de

2.3 Office hours

Tuesday, 5-6pm and on appointment.

2.4 Laptop/STATA

The class also serves as an advanced to intermediate introduction to STATA. Please bring your laptop to class. The University provides a free STATA licence for you. You can have STATA installed on your laptop at the Methodenlabor (A5,6 Room C -107). Just ask the supervisor in the pool.

This procedure has several advantages over working in the PC pool. You can work with your familiar computer environment. You have a working STATA system readily set up and can easily work on assignments. This facilitates learning and group work. It also means we do not need to spend all semester in the ugly cellar of A5.

3 Course Requirements

In order to earn the 5 ECTS points the following requirements have to be met:

Attendance + Participation

Attendance is mandatory. In case of sickness or other compelling (!) reasons for missing a class, I expect that you send me an email *before* the class starts. Missing a class unexcused may lead to expulsion from the course.

In addition I expect you to have the readings prepared. Please bring a printed version of the articles to class as we will work with the material.

Assignments

There is only one way to learn how to work with data and statistics: You have to *do* it on your own. During the course of the semester we will therefore have several homework assignments to complement the content of the class. These assignments are to be uploaded in electronic format (pdf!) in ilias before the class starts. You can work in groups on the assignment. However, every student is required to write down and hand in their own version of the solutions. Please indicate who you worked with. In order to pass the class you have to earn at least 50 % of the total points in the assignments. I expect you to hand in all assignments.

Data analysis

Every student is to hand in a small data analysis of 5-8 pages. This data analysis should build on the topics we have covered in class. It is important to develop a research question, a hypothesis and conduct an analysis which serves to actually test the hypothesis. The hypothesis should be derived from a theoretical argument. The deadline is 03 June 2014. You can upload an electronic version (pdf!) in ilias.

Grade

The grade is a weighted average of the problem sets (30%) and the data analysis (70%).

4 General literature

Caporaso/Levine. *Theories of Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

De Vaus, David. 2001. *Research Design in Social Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage

Gilpin, Robert. 2001. *Global Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Geddes, Barbara F. 2003. *Paradigms and Sandcastles. Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

King, Gary/Keohane, Robert O./Verba, Sidney. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*. London: Routledge. 3rd edition.

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2000. *Political Economics*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2003. *Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Przeworski, Adam. 2003. *States and Markets. A Primer in Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2013. *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*. Cengage Learning.

5 STATA Literature

Hamilton, Lawrence C. 2013. *Statistics with Stata: Version 12*. Cengage Learning : Duxbury.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Long, J. Scott. 2009. *The Workflow of Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, Tex.: Stata Press.

Mitchell, Michael N. 2010. *Data Management Using Stata: A Practical Handbook*. College Station, Tex.: Stata Press.

Mitchell, Michael N. 2012a. *A Visual Guide to Stata Graphics*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Mitchell, Michael N. 2012b. *Interpreting and Visualizing Regression Models Using Stata*. College Station, Tex.: Stata Press.

6 Sessions

We will work extensively with the books by Persson and Tabellini (2003) and Hallerberg, von Hagen, and Strauch (2009). I strongly advise you to buy a copy of the books!

I expect you to have read the book of Persson and Tabellini (2003) by 18 March 2014. By the time we resume class after the easter break (29 April 2014), I expect you to have read the book of Hallerberg, von Hagen and Strauch (2009).

Additional Literature may be assigned during the course of the semester.

11 February 2014 - Introduction

18 February 2014 - Political Economy

Alt, James E. 2001. *Comparative Political Economy: Credibility, Accountability, and Institutions*. In: Katznelson, Ira/Milner, Helen. 2001. *Political Science: State of the Discipline*. New York: W. W. Norton, p. 147-171

Caporaso, James A./Levine, David P. 1992. *Theories of Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 7-32.

recommended reading:

Frieden, Jeffry/Martin, Lisa L. 2001. *International Political Economy: Global and Domestic Interactions*. In: Katznelson, Ira/Milner, Helen. 2001. *Political Science: State of the Discipline*. New York: W. W. Norton, p. 118-146

25 February 2014 - The Comparative Method

Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*. London: Routledge. 3rd edition. Chapters 1-3, p. 1-66.

04 March 2014 - Research Design

De Vaus, David. 2001. *Research Design in Social Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Chapters 1-3, p. 1-52

11 March 2014 - Measurement

Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *The American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 529-46.

Shively, W. Phillips. 2011. *The Craft of Political Research*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education. Chapters 4 + 5, p. 42-72.

18 March 2014 - Economic Effects of Constitutions I

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2003. *Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

25 March 2014 - Economic Effects of Constitutions II

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2003. *Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

01 April 2014 - Economic Effects of Constitutions III

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2003. *Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

08 April 2014 - Economic Effects of Constitutions IV

Persson, Torsten/Tabellini, Guido. 2003. *Economic Effects of Constitutions*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

+ + **Easter Break** + +

29 April 2014 - Fiscal Governance I

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

06 May 2014 - Fiscal Governance II

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

13 May 2014 - Fiscal Governance III

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

20 May 2014 - Fiscal Governance IV

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

27 May 2014 - Fiscal Governance V

Hallerberg, Mark/Strauch, Rolf Rainer/von Hagen, Jürgen. 2009. *Fiscal Governance in Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

Kohler, Ulrich, and Frauke Kreuter. 2012. *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, TX: Stata Press.