Hauptseminar/V-Seminar im WiSe 2011–12

Democracy and Voting:
Procedures, Rules and Paradoxes

Objective
This is an intensive interdisciplinary research-based block-seminar course that will examine the normative foundations of democratic decision-making and its implementation in voting procedures and rules.

Target Group
Master’s and advanced Bachelor’s (5–6th semester) students from:
- Economics
- IWE/G
- Philosophy & Economics (V, P3, PS3)

Seminar Places
- Economics, IWE/G: 8
- P&E: 8

Language of Instruction/Assessment
- Seminar: English
- Written work: English or German

Dates and Deadlines
- Introduction and Organization Session: 20 July 2011, 09:00–10:00 s.t., S 35, NW I
- Enrolment: 02 September 2011 (see below).
- Notification of acceptance/rejection: 10 September 2011.
- Submission of presentations: 02 December 2011.
- Submission of seminar papers: 31 March 2012.

Please note that deadlines are final and will be strictly enforced.

Assessment

Economics, IWE/G
- Bachelor 5 cps: presentation and 3500–4500 word seminar paper.
- Master 6 cps: presentation and 5500–6500 word seminar paper.
Philosophy & Economics
• 2 cps: presentation and oral contributions.
• 6/8 cps: presentation and 6000–7500 word seminar paper.

Enrolment/Registration
To enroll please follow the instructions exactly as given. Those failing to do so will not be registered.

1. Send an e-mail to:
   claudia.ficht@uni-bayreuth.de (Secretariat for Political Philosophy)
   by 02 September 2011. The e-mail should be as follows:

2. Subject line:
   Braham/Napel Dem Voting

3. Content:
   In the mail please give the following information in a comma-delimited list without any further details (such as Dear Prof. Braham/Napel etc) exactly as follows:

   Last name First name, Mat-Nr., Degree, Semester, Pref 1, Pref 2, Pref 3, cps, date

   NB: no spaces between commas.

Key
Degree = Econ, IWE, IWG, P&E
Semester = Your semester in WiSe 11–12 (e.g. BA6, MA3)
Pref = your preferred topic
cps = the number of credit points you will study for,
date = dd-mm.

Example
Mill John, 10101, P&E, BA6, 10, 9, 8, 2cps, 01-09
Luxemburg Rosa, 10102, IWG, MA2, 11, 12, 13, 6cps, 01-09

Allocation of seminar places and topic will be made by 10 September 2011. You will be notified by e-mail.

Seminar Instructions
1. Presentations: 30 mins.; Discussion: 30 mins.
2. Presentations should be a concise and systematic overview of the topic in the form of a lecture. The literature given with the topic is the starting point – this is a research seminar so you are expected to search for additional literature yourself.

Seminar Papers
Your seminar paper should be on a well-defined question within your topic and have the approval of either of us. Please bear in mind when writing your paper that you should maintain scholarly standards of presentation and citation. For guidance, please consult any of the working papers that can be found on either of our websites. We do, however, recommend that you use the author-date (Harvard) referencing system.
Topics

The Normative Justification of Democratic Decision-Making

1. Why Democracy?
   Mill, J.S. (1861), *Considerations on Representative Government*

2. The Political and Economic Significance of Voting Procedures
   Mill, J.S. (1861), *Considerations on Representative Government*

3. The Economics of Voting Rules

Foundations of Social Choice

4. Justifying Simple Majority: May’s Theorem

5. Social Welfare Functions: Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem


Voting Procedures and Paradoxes

8. The Variety of Voting Procedures

9. Paradoxes I: Incompatibility and Monotonicity Paradoxes

10. Paradoxes II: Choice Set Variance and Representation Paradoxes

Equal Representation in Weighted Voting Systems

11. Voting Power: The Shapley-Shubik and Banzhaf Indices
12. Square Root Rules: Simple Policy Spaces


14. Power Indices and the EU
http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/2793/
www.cepr.org/pubs/dps/DP4450.asp

15. Power Indices and the IMF
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/leech/imftwerp_914.pdf

Conclusion

16. Is There a Best Voting Procedure?
http://www2.lse.ac.uk/CPNSS/projects/VPP/VPPpdf/DuBaffyVote_Laslier.pdf

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