Seminar Political Economy WS 2019/20: Voting and Political Decisions in Practice

Objective and Target Group
The seminar is targeted at Master’s students* of Economics, Internationale Wirtschaft & Governance, and Philosophy & Economics, who are interested in the application of economic reasoning to the analysis of political decisions. The purpose of the seminar is to give you both a sense of the frontier research topics and a good command of the tools used in the area.
* Advanced (and motivated Bachelor’s students) may also be admitted upon request.

Dates and Deadlines
A short introduction to the available topics (see the list below) will be given on Friday, July 26, 2019 at 14:00 s.t. in room S 46.
All presentations will be blocked on Friday, January 24, and Saturday, January 25, 2020. The presentations must be submitted until January 17, 2020. Seminar papers must be handed in until March 31, 2020. Please note that deadlines are final and will be strictly enforced.

Assessment
Presentation, comment, participation and seminar paper (5500-6500 words depending on the ratio of formal to verbal parts). The latter should be on a well-defined issue related to your topic.
The seminar gives credit points in:
- Master Economics: Governance, Wettbewerb und gesellschaftliche Entwicklung (Governance), Individueller Schwerpunkt [selected topics can also give credits for Advanced Microeconomics II (Modelltheorie)]
- Master IWG: Governance & „Politik“ (Governance & Public Management), Individuelle Spezialisierung [selected topics can also give credits for Advanced Microeconomics II (Ökonomische Modellbildung und empirische Analyse)]
- Master P&E: Economics Elective (Specialization)

Seminar Instructions
- The seminar language will be English.
- Time allowed: 45 min. presentation, 5 min. comment, 10 min. discussion.
- Presentations should be a comprehensive overview of the topic.
- Each presentation will be assigned to one other participant, who is to comment on (and initiate the discussion of) the contents of the presentation. Presenters are required to send their presentations to both lecturers and the respective commenters until January 17, 2020.
- The literature given below is a starting point for your presentation and seminar paper. You are typically expected to find additional material yourself.
Registration
Students who want to register for the seminar can do so with an e-mail to alexander.mayer@uni-bayreuth.de until September 30, 2019. In the mail please give the following information in a comma-delimited list without spaces between commas and without any further details (such as “Dear Mr. Mayer” etc.) exactly as follows:

Last name,First name,Mat-Nr.,Degree,Semester,Pref1,Pref2,Pref3

Key
Degree = Econ, IWG, P&E
Semester = Your semester in WS 19/20 (e.g., MA2 for your 2nd master semester)
Pref = your preferred topic

Example
Arrow,Kenneth,1234567,Econ,MA3,4,12,6

Admission to the seminar is based on “first come, first serve”. You will be notified about acceptance (and your topic) directly after registration.

Topics
Why Do Voters Vote?
T1. Pivotal Voting

T2. Norm Based Voting

How Do Voters Vote?
T3. Are Voters Strategic? Theory

T4. Are Voters Strategic? Empirics
T5. The Role of Information

T6. How Does Corruption Influence Voting Behavior?

Do Policies Reflect Voter Preferences?

T7. Do Policies Converge to the Center?

T8. The Effect of Extending the Voting Franchise

T9. The Role of the Voting Technology