

Political Economy

Course coordinator: Roberto Ricciuti

Course lecturers: Roberto Ricciuti (roberto.ricciuti@univr.it) and Marcella Veronesi (marcella.veronesi@univr.it)

Module A – 14 hours (Roberto Ricciuti)

This module introduces to two important topics in current research in political economy: political institutions and state capacity, providing the theoretical underpinnings for Module B:

1. Electoral rules and electoral competition
2. Institutions and accountability
3. Political regimes
4. Fiscal capacity
5. Legal capacity
6. Political violence

Topics 1-3 are drawn from Persson and Tabellini, *Political Economics* (chapters 8-10), topics 4-6 are drawn from Besley and Persson, *Pillars of Prosperity* (chapters 1-4).

Module B – 6 hours (Marcella Veronesi)

This module introduces students to methods frequently used in political economy to infer causality. A close understanding of these methods is central to current empirical work in political economy. This module will focus on both experimental and non-experimental methods with a focus on hands-on implementation of methods using actual data. Students will be expected to read the assigned papers, discuss the basic issues, the methods used, and reproduce the results. There is no single textbook on which lectures are based. Specific readings will be suggested during the course such as

Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, J. A. Robinson (2001), “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation,” *American Economic Review*, 91(5): 1369-1401.
<http://economics.mit.edu/faculty/acemoglu/data/ajr2001>

Brollo, F., T. Nannicini, R. Perotti, and G. Tabellini (2013), “The Political Resource Curse,” *American Economic Review* 2013, 103(5): 1759–1796.
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.103.5.1759>

Dal Bó, P., A. Foster, and L. Putterman (2010), “Institutions and Behavior: Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Democracy,” *American Economic Review* 100: 2205–2229.
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.100.5.2205>

Nannicini, T., A. Stella, G. Tabellini, and U. Troiano (2013), “Social Capital and Political Accountability,” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 5(2): 222–250.
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pol.5.2.222>

Exam

An essay must be produced. It could be either a survey of the literature (4000 words) or (preferably) an empirical application on a relevant economic issue (3000 words).