Short Description:
Collective decision making is inherent to both politics and political science. The output produced in the political system as well as its outcomes produced during implementation are mainly affected by the individual choices of actors which interact in collectives. Collective decisions feature certain advantages in comparison to purely centralized and hierarchical individual decisions as they are considered more legitimate and contain a multi-faceted conglomerate of perspectives that can inform policy making and optimize outlooks for implementation. At the same time, collective actors are prone to the same biases, mistakes and failures as purely individual actors, only that these factors are subject to highly dynamic intersubjective processes that can arbitrarily influence decision making both in good or bad ways.
In this seminar we are going to explore and discuss several theoretical approaches that explain collective decision making and its outcomes under various kinds and degrees of restrictions. We will shed light into the sources of both substantive (the complexity of the world/specific situational contexts) and cognitive (the limitations of the human mind in perception and processing) complexity that induce uncertainty in decision making and impair rational choice.

Notes:
The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:
Via FlexNow! From April 1st until May 13th, 2017

Speaking hours:
By arrangement.

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