



Sommersemester 2017

Vorlesung (MA) / Lecture-based module (MA)

Vorlesung (MA): Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft I

Comparative Political Institutions (in English)

Time: Tuesday, 16.00-18.00
Venue: F21/02.31
Start Date: 25 April 2017
Registration in FlexNow!: 01.04.2017 - 02.07.2017 (Deregistration until 02.07.2017)
Instructor: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

Prerequisites/Zulassungsvoraussetzungen

BA or equivalent qualification in Political Science

Assessment/Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises

Written exam (60 minutes)
ECTS credits: 6

Program

“The proper study of politics is not man but institutions.” (John Plamenatz) – A defining element of Political Science, the study of institutions has experienced a spectacular revival since the 1980s. This lecture-based module is designed, firstly, to introduce Master students of Political Science to the most important varieties of “old” and “new” institutionalisms. Secondly, it will discuss some crucial descriptive concepts that have shaped the discussion on institutional design in contemporary political research. It will, thirdly, apply these concepts to a number of examples to demonstrate how institutional knowledge generated by Political Scientists has helped to influence debates on constitutional design in post-conflict societies as well as mature liberal democracies. Finally, it will demonstrate and discuss recent theoretical tools for the rigorous analysis of institutions such as game theory and principal-agent theory.

Introductory Readings

North, Douglass C.: *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1990.

Peters, B. Guy: *Institutional Theory in Political Science: The “New Institutionalism”*. London: Pinter 1999 (or a later edition).

Rhodes, R.A.W./ Binder, Sarah A. and Rockman, Bert A. (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006.