

Comparative Political Economy (CF)

Sophie Panel

Associate Professor in Economics sophie.panel@iepg.fr

Simon Persico

Full Professor of Political Science simon.persico@iepg.fr

1 Course description

Why are there so many states today? Do parliamentary regimes produce better outcomes than presidential regimes? Why are hereditary monarchies more stable than military dictatorships? Does it make sense to vote?

This course covers twelve central topics in comparative political economy and the many questions they raise. “Comparative political economy” studies political institutions but analyzes them with tools borrowed from economics. It means that, from a theoretical perspective, the unit of analysis is the individual, who is motivated to achieve goals but must act under the constraint of political institutions. Therefore, the main aim of CPE is to understand how institutions affect individual behavior and produce specific outcomes. From a methodological perspective, knowledge about the origins and effects of political institutions is drawn from statistical analysis or from experiments.

There are no prerequisites to attend this lecture, but you need to be somewhat comfortable in English (e.g., be able to take notes).

2 Program outline

Session 1

Introduction - Democracies (Sophie Panel)

- Session 2
Parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential regimes (Sophie Panel)
- Session 3
Electoral systems (Sophie Panel)
- Session 4
Direct democracy (Simon Persico)
- Session 5
Environmental politics and policies (Simon Persico)
- Session 6
Voting behavior (Sophie Panel)
- Session 7
Parties and party systems (Simon Persico)
- Session 8
Political leaders (Sophie Panel)
- Session 9
Economic effects of political institutions (Sophie Panel)
- Session 10
State building (Sophie Panel)
- Session 11
Authoritarian and totalitarian regimes (Sophie Panel)
- Session 12 Civil war
(Sophie Panel)

3 Assessment

Oral exams (10 to 15 minutes) will take place in January. The exact date and time slots will be communicated at a later point.

Please note that, depending on enrollment, we reserve the possibility to replace oral exams with a written exam.

Important information : international students staying only for one semester have the possibility to take the exam in December if they must go back to their home country before Christmas. If you are concerned, please email : sophie.panel@iepg.fr

Attendance is not mandatory, although it is strongly recommended : you may choose not to attend the lecture and to consult suggested readings provided at the end of each class instead. Please note that you are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence (regardless of the reason). If you do come, please be on time.