



RUPRECHT-KARLS-UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN
ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN
& INSTITUT FÜR POLITISCHE WISSENSCHAFT

PROF. DR. ZENO ENDERS PROF. DR. REIMUT ZOHLNHÖFER

Seminar in Economics (M.Sc.) and Political Science (M.A.)

ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS THROUGH THE LENSES OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Description

Holistic scientific analyses of economic policy reforms combine the observation of political processes with the examination of the substantive content of the reforms. This allows an investigation of whether a reform is suitable for solving specific problems, while also clarifying why certain theoretically more suitable solutions are not politically feasible. The seminar will take an interdisciplinary approach to analyse some German or international recently implemented or discussed economic policy reforms, e.g., the debt brake, the heating law, welfare benefits, energy subsidies, sanctions towards Russia, reforms of the railway system, etc. What economic issues were to be resolved with these reforms? Which effects were to be expected and which, as far as is already known, actually materialised? Why were these reforms implemented in this particular way? Which political processes led to these outcomes? These questions are to be explored in small groups by Economics and Political Science students, who will present and discuss their findings in the block sessions.

Organization

The seminar will take place on Friday, 14 June and Friday, 21 June 2024, most likely from 10:00 to 16:00 in room 00.010. The exact times depend on the number of participants and will be announced in advance on moodle. A preliminary meeting for the selected applicants will take place on Thursday, April 25 at 10:45-12:00 in room 00.010. On Thursday, 2 May at 10:00-12:00 in room 00.010 there will be an additional meeting for students to get to know or recap some theories of the policy process. On Tuesday, 7 May at 10:30-12:00 in room 02.036 another meeting will take place for students to get to know or recap some economic theories of suitable economic policy measures

The presentations will be held jointly by groups of Economics and Political Science students. The group size is variable and depends on the number of participants. The groups will be determined in the preliminary meeting. The seminar thesis has to be written individually, focussing on the respective subject-specific questions. Students who study 50% Economics and 50% Political Science are asked to indicate in the preliminary meeting the subject in which they wish to participate in the seminar.

Seminar Language

The seminar will be held in English.

Application

The application form can soon be downloaded from <https://www.awi.uni-heidelberg.de/en/professorships/macroeconomics/teaching>. The completed form must be sent to sekretariat.wipol@awi.uni-heidelberg.de by (and including) 20 April or placed in the letterbox of the Chair of Macroeconomics on the ground floor of Bergheimer Str. 58 (also for Political Science students). You can still cancel your participation up to (and including) 5 May. After that date, you will receive a 5.0 for cancellation or non-participation if no other individual agreement has been made.

Topic Allocation

Please let us know your preferred topic in the application form and name at least two alternatives. The assignment of the topics and the formation of groups will take place in the preliminary meeting.

Introductory Literature

- Padgett, Stephen, William E. Paterson and Reimut Zohlnhöfer (Eds.), 2014: Developments in German Politics 4, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Klump, Rainer, 2020: Wirtschaftspolitik (4th ed.): Pearson.

Students are advised to find additional literature on the individual topics. The lecturers are available to answer any questions.

Prerequisites

- None

Topics

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) The debt brake | 5) Sanctions towards Russia |
| 2) Energy subsidies | 6) Reforms of the railway system |
| 3) The heating law | 7) Climate Protection Law |
| 4) Welfare benefits (Bürgergeld) | 8) Pension reform |



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Application for the M.Sc. seminar

ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS THROUGH THE LENSES OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Name:	
Email:	
‘Matrikelnummer’:	
Current semester (‘Fachsemester’):	
How many M.Sc. seminars did you take so far?	
Degree program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics (M.Sc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Politische Wissen- schaft (M.Sc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Erasmus student <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Favorite topics:	1st choice: 2nd choice: 3rd choice:

The application deadline is April 20.

You can cancel your participation until May 5. After that, you will receive a 5.0 if you cancel.
Please send the completed form to sekretariat.wipol@awi.uni-heidelberg.de.