European University Institute

Topics in Political Economy
Winter 2017

Andrea Mattozzi

• Classes: W-F 13:30-15:30

• Office Hours: By appointment

• Texts:
Class notes will be distributed.
Optional texts for overview and general references are:

• Course Objectives: The aim of this course is to introduce you to theoretical and applied research in political economy. The focus will be on formal analysis of the strategic interaction between rational individuals, political institutions, and economic outcomes. Some of the questions we are interested in are: Why do people vote? What are the incentives of elected politician and what is the effect of these incentives on the policies they will implement? To what extent differences in political institutions account for differences in redistributive policies? Topics that will be covered include: theory of voting, models of direct democracy, models of electoral competition, the political economy of redistribution, comparative political institutions, campaign advertising, redistricting.

• Course Requirements: There will be a final exam. More information will be provided in class.

• Subjects and Readings

The following reading list should be regarded as tentative and subject to revision.

1. Basic Results in the Theory of Voting
2. Participation and Information Aggregation


3. Models of Direct Democracies


4. Models of Electoral Competition


5. Dynamic Models


6. Comparing Political Institutions


7. Campaign Advertising


